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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY SIMON BISLEY

LUNATIK

"THE DEVIL TO PAY"

SCRIPT, CO-PLOTTER, COLORIST AND CO-CREATOR .....LOVERN KINDZERSKI
PENCILS, CO-PLOTTER, AND CO-CREATOR .....KEITH GIFFEN
INKS, HE DIDN'T CO-CREATE IT .....CHARLIE ADLARD
LETTERS, HE DIDN'T CO-CREATE EITHER .....JEFF POWELL
EDITOR, CLAIMS TO HAVE CO-CREATED IT, BUT WE KNOW BETTER .....RICHARD

Hired to hunt down a renegade by the Universal Cosa Nostrum, THE LUNATIK ventures to a far-off planet of little people and little significance, where he finds among the peaceful, but dumb inhabitants the renegade, Lupal, and the master of the power cosmic, the Silver Surfer!

NICK FURY

"TEST RUN"

WRITER .....BAMBOS GEORGIOU
PENCILS .....DAVE STEELE
INKS .....BAMBOS GEORGIOU
LETTERS .....BAMBOS GEORGIOU
COLORS .....DIANE BUSCEMA

It's a test run for some new S.H.I.E.L.D. technology and Colonel Fury is putting it through its paces.

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear MCP,

I am saddened by the word of your impending demise. It's been a grand ride and let's hope you resurface in the future.

While I enjoyed MCP, I know it was a bit off-putting for some. I initially didn't like the fact that you had four stories with staggered starts and stops. I didn't feel I could ever get into the stories at one time without going back two or three issues. (My problem was solved by a gift of most of the run from around issue #12 to #100.) My other minor complaint was that since the stories were told in such small bites it only made you hungry for more. Still through the issues you've had some gems: WEAPON X, the Typhoid Mary two-parter in issues #150-151, the odd pairings of Wolverine and Ghost Rider. I loved that you saw things in MCP that you didn't see elsewhere in Marvelland. I will forever have many of the images from the stories and the covers etched in my mind; in its way you guys put out real art. I'm sorry to see it go.

I hope to see something like MCP in the future, perhaps a story an issue, sort of like the old MARVEL FANFARE, but without its blandness, and with all the things that made MCP so great. Till then

Steve Kopian
231 Roslyn Drive
Glen Head, NY 11545

MCP Crew,

Boy, have I got a massive (deleted) with you people! What the (deleted) is wrong with you!? I pick up MCP #168 because the cover says that Stingray has a feature in it. Fabulous! Stingray is one of my all-time favorite characters.

Well imagine my (deleted) chagrin when I find NO Stingray feature at all! I find a Valkyrie feature instead. You people are getting paid good money, not to mention my $1.75 for the (deleted) book; how do you explain this incompetence? A simple mistake? Yeah, well, then, how do you explain the fact that every price guide on the planet lists MCP #140 as having a Captain Universe feature!? I find no trace of a Captain Universe feature! Thank God, I actually decided to look through that book before I shelled out the money and got boned royally. We, the readers, shouldn't have to page through every single book to make sure we're getting what YOU advertised that we were getting!

Fine way to treat a reader who's just recently come back to the Marvel Universe and was truly enjoying many of the things you've been doing. Not to mention a fine way to treat all of your fans that have stayed with you the whole while! And on top of this, your higher-up powers-that-be are going to raise the prices simply because they can? Maybe this is going to be a replay of a few years ago when I just up and stopped buying the Marvel books altogether.

Rob Running Water
c/o 104 East Hazard Street
Summit Hill, PA 18250

Rob, you have our sincere apology regarding the Stingray mix-up. Covers precede the interior pages to the printers, and if there is a mix-up or last minute change it can cause the kind of problem you described. As to the Captain Universe story, it did appear in MCP #148, and I think that you should take to

(continued on cover three)

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COVER BY JEFF MOORE/TIM DZON

VENGEANCE

"DIABOLICAL DESIGNS"

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
ART .....REGGIE JONES
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

Sheeeeeee's back! Diabolique!

STINGRAY

"REPERCUSSIONS"

WRITER .....MARIANO NICIEZA
ART .....MARK McKENNA
LAYOUT, ...ALEX SHEIKMAN
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....DIANE BUSCEMA

The return of the Lava Men, in a fiery fracas, with the underwater super hero, Stingray!

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

The future is fast, with each second becoming the present, and then the past. Speculation about the future has been the stuff of countless novels, films, and comic books, as well as fuel for endless conversations lasting late into the night. We've all been witness to the ideas of gleaming cities stretching into the clouds, flying cars and laser beams; now lasers produce the sound in our CD systems and the realities of a fender bender three stories above the ground become apparent. With each new development in printing technology comic books are moving into the future, as evidenced by the holograms and specialty covers which have appeared over the last few years. Coloring, once uncredited, is now a highly competitive discipline, with the almost limitless possibilities of computer coloring quickly becoming (because you demanded it) the norm. What then does the future hold for comic books? It is entirely possible to place a micro-chip within the pages to produce sound effects or dialogue, much like a musical greeting card. Holograms and 3-D printing could produce some spectacular effects. What about the possibilities of merging comics and the CD-ROM? The ability to enter the storyline is happening in both computer games and computer software. Virtual reality might enable us to take part in a slugfest with the Hulk, or go on a cosmic odyssey with the Silver Surfer. Is print, as many have predicted, dying? Will the comic book as we know it, colored newsprint with glossy covers, become extinct? Will it be replaced with holo-screens and disks? Maybe, but probably not. To many of us, the real joy a comic holds is the tactile experience of holding it, of the smell of ageing newsprint as we reread a favorite issue. The ability to hold the wonder and possibilities in our hands.

As we take each step into the future, the heroes of comic books will be right at our side, and perhaps in some cases leading us, hopefully, to those gleaming cities in the clouds and not some burnt, desolate wasteland.

Thumbing through our collections, looking to the future,
Richard and Michael

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

task *all* of the price guides, if not one of them did their research and opened a copy of the magazine they are claiming to know the price of a little fishy if you ask us.

My Dear Presenters, Richard, Michael, and Sue,

Can you three imagine being disappointed and unsurprised at the same time? I've always enjoyed Marvel's anthology titles since I began reading comics twenty-five years ago. Despite believing that it takes more work to produce these comics than regular titles, I can't help but feel the public either lacks appreciation, or this stuff is over their collective heads. Perhaps, the public needs mediocrity, or to paraphrase one of my non-comic reading friends, you just don't get the respect you deserve until you terribly abuse the person whose respect you demand. Needless to say, but my friend is a true believer in intense pain for delivering messages to morons.

Allow me to share my pain and grief with you, since I'll never find the morons who stopped buying this title.

1) There are no ads to slow me down, and even if I had to pay full cover price for an extra cover and 32 pages of art, it's still a better bargain than a regular or deluxe mag.

2) Without making a huge list, I figure that I've enjoyed more than 85% of MCP's stories. Sure, there are some elements I may not have liked, but that hardly means I thought the stories were trash.

I have to wonder if orders slowly trickled down, or if one story just hacked a bunch of people off, or if "Weapon X" was this mag's highlight, or what? I've often wondered about other anthologies from my youth in much the same fashion...

"Young Gods" was the worst. I remember no real details other than I found the premise unbelievable; maybe if I was younger I would have enjoyed it more.

"Just Friends," starring the Beast in issues #85-92, is my personal favorite. This story of love lost and action for the greater good nearly had me weeping at the end. The interplay between all the characters was very compelling, and I had almost wished the Constrictor and Red Ghost were no longer villains, almost. The exchanges between Beast and Constrictor were second only to when Hank kissed Jennifer, effectively reviving her memory. This type of art and character development is one reason I buy comics. I know it's a little late but I have some compelling questions.

1) With the apparent demise of Prof. X looming on the horizon, will we see Hank return to his love, Jennifer? If so, will the impetus for her scientific achievements be disposed? I hope not.

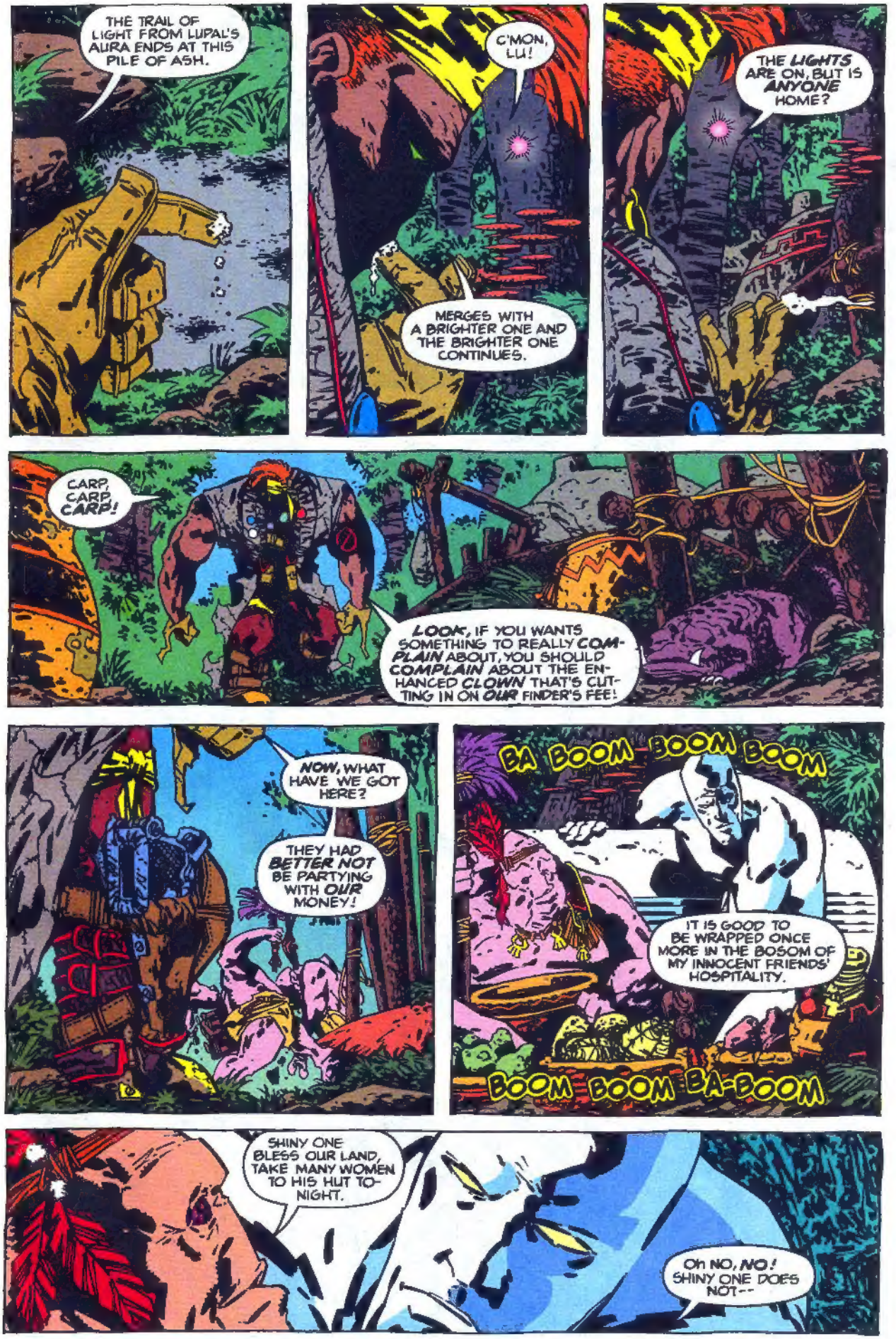
2) What happened to her since the hospital scene at the end of the story?

3) Just who was the French-speaking/machinegun-wielding scientist who came to the aid of the Constrictor?

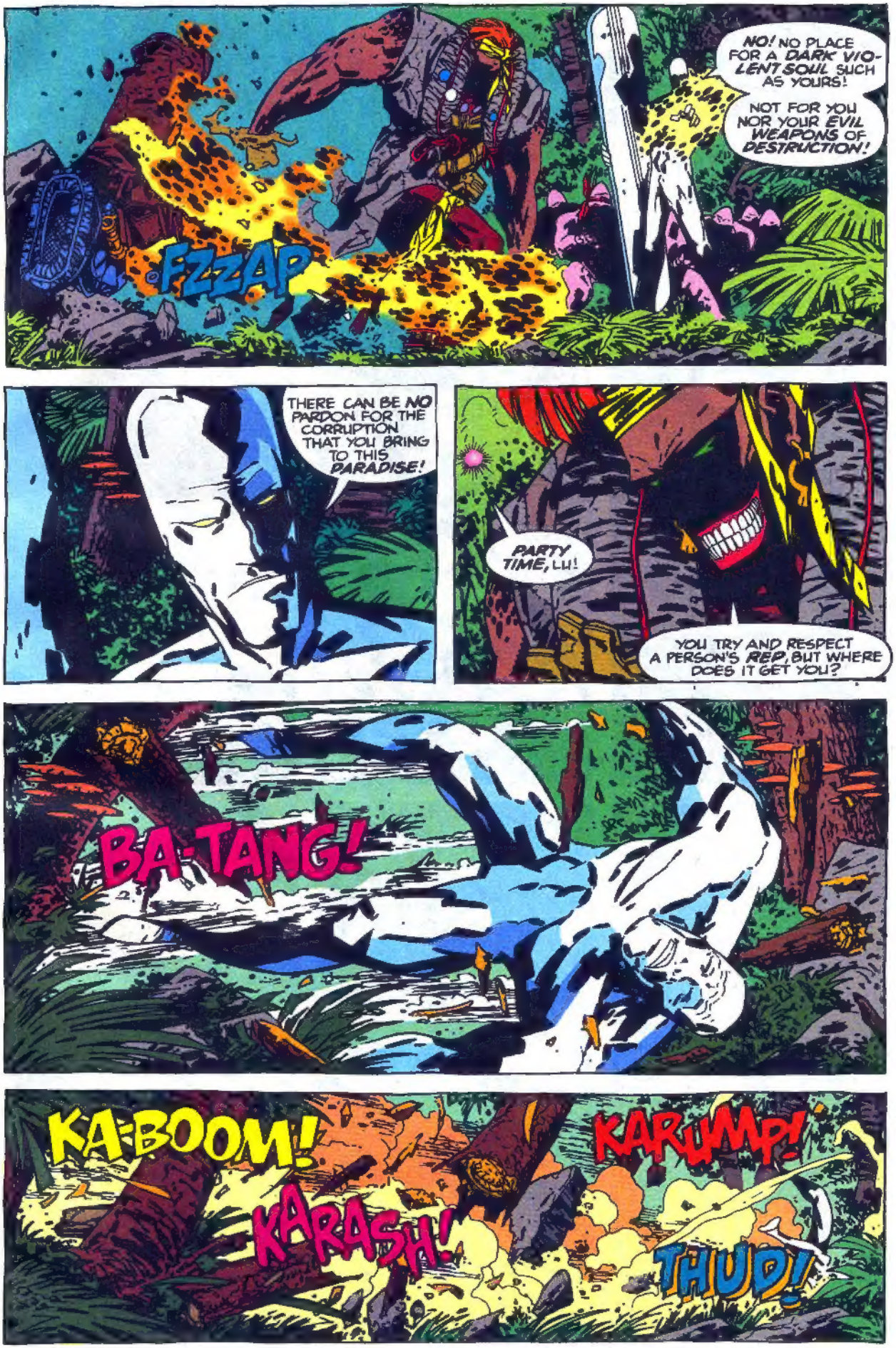
I'm not a regular subscriber to all the X-titles, but I will follow EXCALIBUR through the change, and I'll look up to the Beast as long as I don't have to deal with Cyclops. I think I've always wanted him to die.

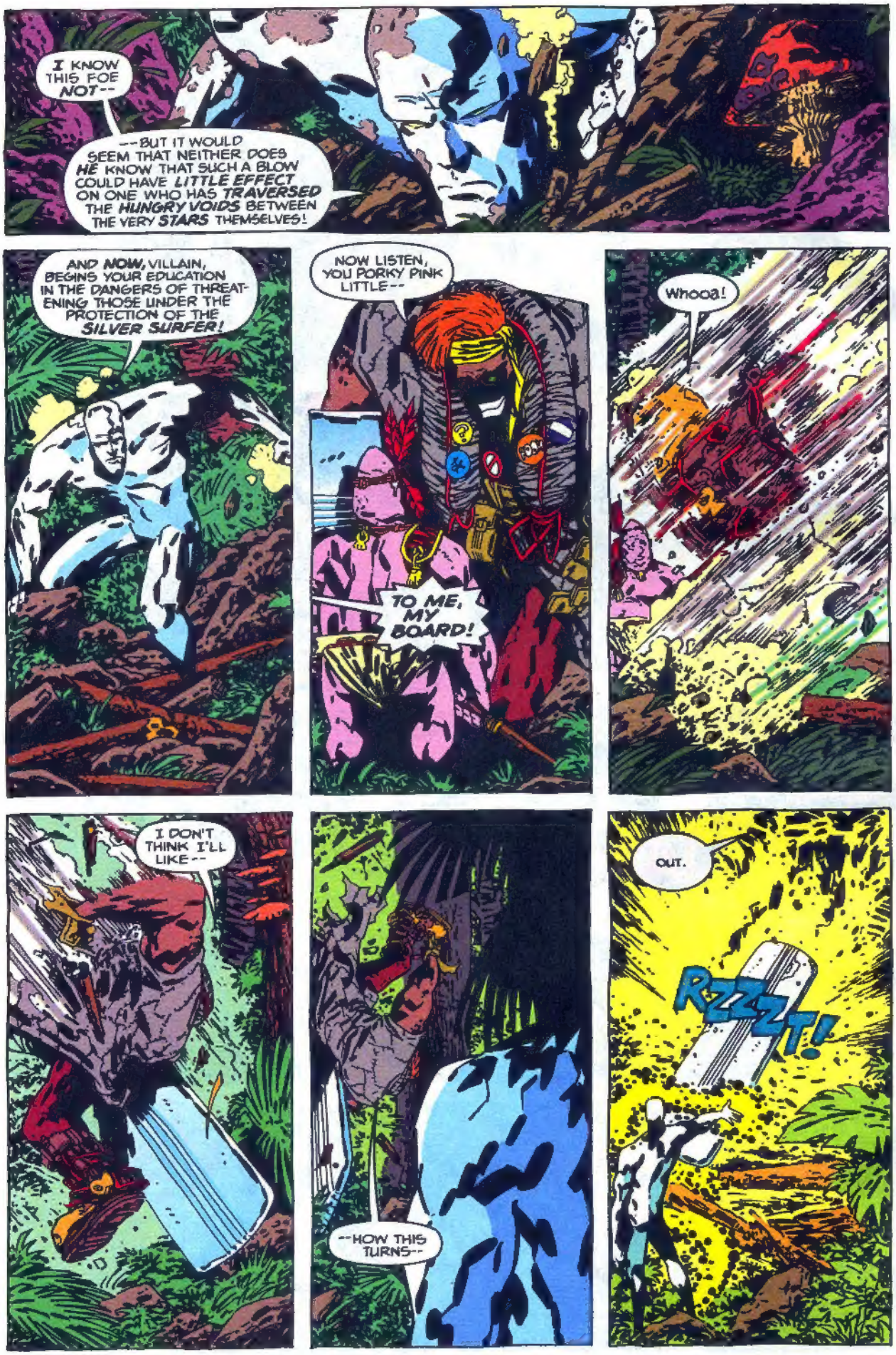
I'd like to close my final letter on a cheery note. I'm glad y'all didn't all get fired because the title is being cancelled! I thank y'all for the hard work to bring me quality, and I wish y'all the best!

Randy Phillips
P.O. Box 5093
Peoria, IL 61601-5093

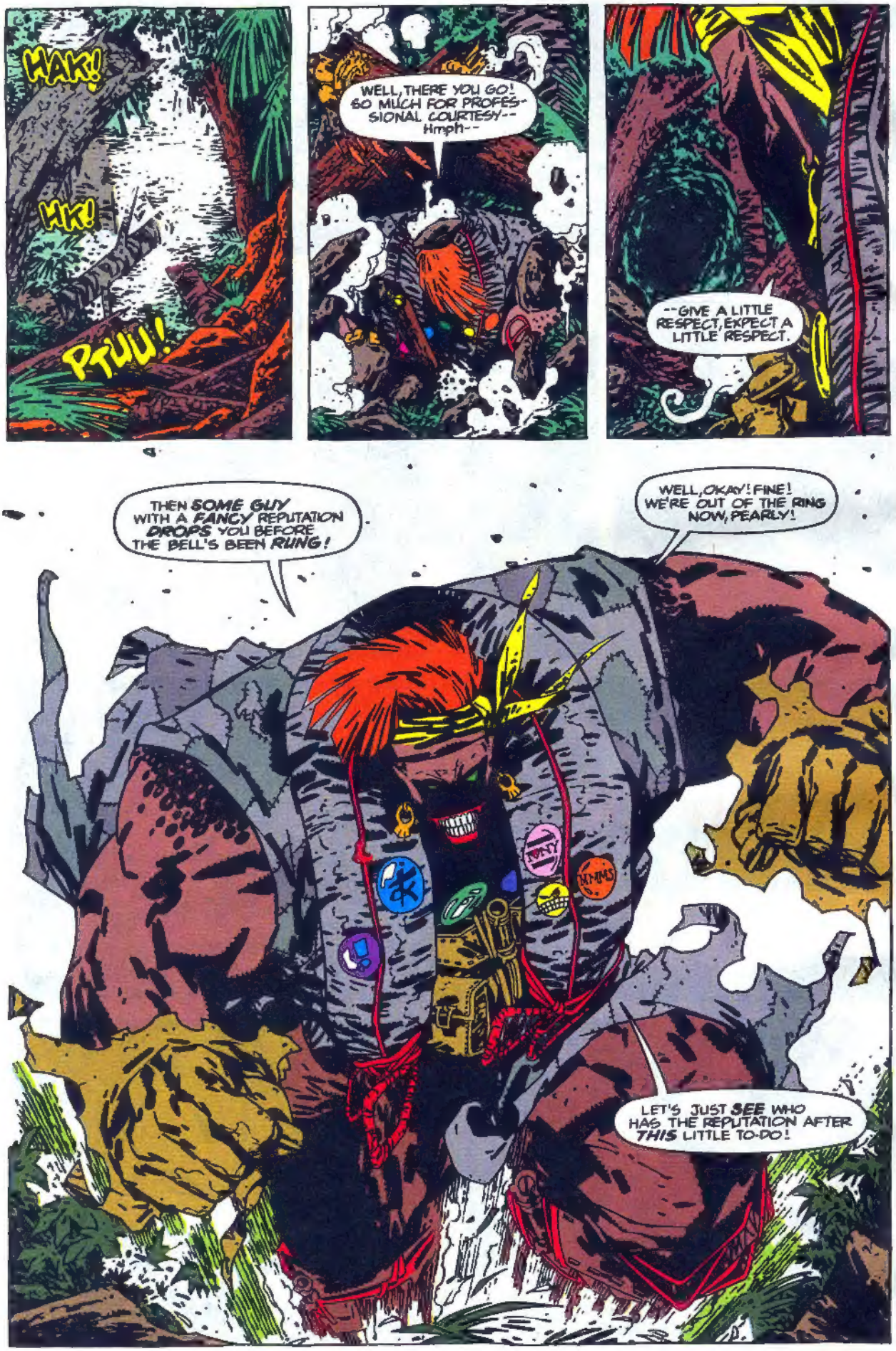

THE TRAIL OF LIGHT FROM LUPAL'S AURA ENDS AT THIS PILE OF ASH.
C'MON, LU!
MERGES WITH A BRIGHTER ONE AND THE BRIGHTER ONE CONTINUES.
THE LIGHTS ARE ON, BUT IS ANYONE HOME?
CARP, CARP, CARP!
LOOK, IF YOU WANTS SOMETHING TO REALLY COMPLAIN ABOUT, YOU SHOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ENHANCED CLOWN THAT'S CUTTING IN ON OUR FINDER'S FEE!
NOW, WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE?
THEY HAD BETTER NOT BE PARTYING WITH OUR MONEY!
BA BOOM BOOM BOOM
IT IS GOOD TO BE WRAPPED ONCE MORE IN THE BOSOM OF MY INNOCENT FRIENDS' HOSPITALITY.
BOOM BOOM BA-BOOM
SHINY ONE BLESS OUR LAND, TAKE MANY WOMEN TO HIS HUT TONIGHT.
Oh NO, NO! SHINY ONE DOES NOT--

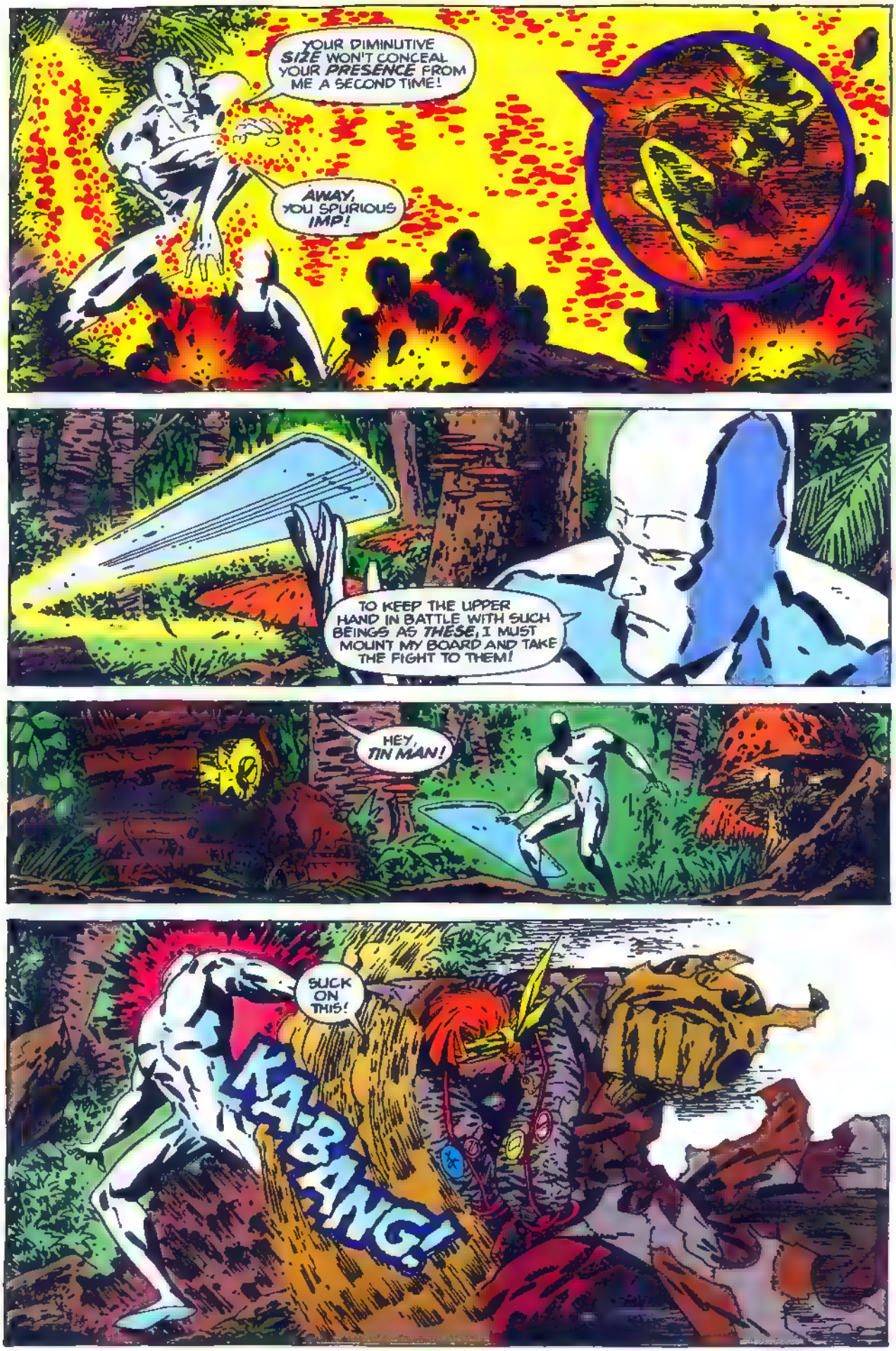
HEY, SURFER! SOME KIND OF PARTY!
HOW'RE YOU DOING, YOU NAKED LITTLE--
YO!
HEY, THIS BODY PAINT IS FRESH.
THAT WOULDN'T BE AN ORELLIAN "W," WOULD IT?
DUBBA-YOU!
BECAUSE IF IT IS, THERE'S GOING TO BE--
THE DEVIL TO PAY!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOUR THREATENING PRESENCE!


NO! NO PLACE FOR A DARK VIOLENT SOUL SUCH AS YOURS!
NOT FOR YOU NOR YOUR EVIL WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION!
FZZAP
THERE CAN BE NO PARDON FOR THE CORRUPTION THAT YOU BRING TO THIS PARADISE!
PARTY TIME, LU!
YOU TRY AND RESPECT A PERSON'S REP, BUT WHERE DOES IT GET YOU?
BA-TANG!
KA-BOOM!
KARASH!
KARUMP!
THUD!

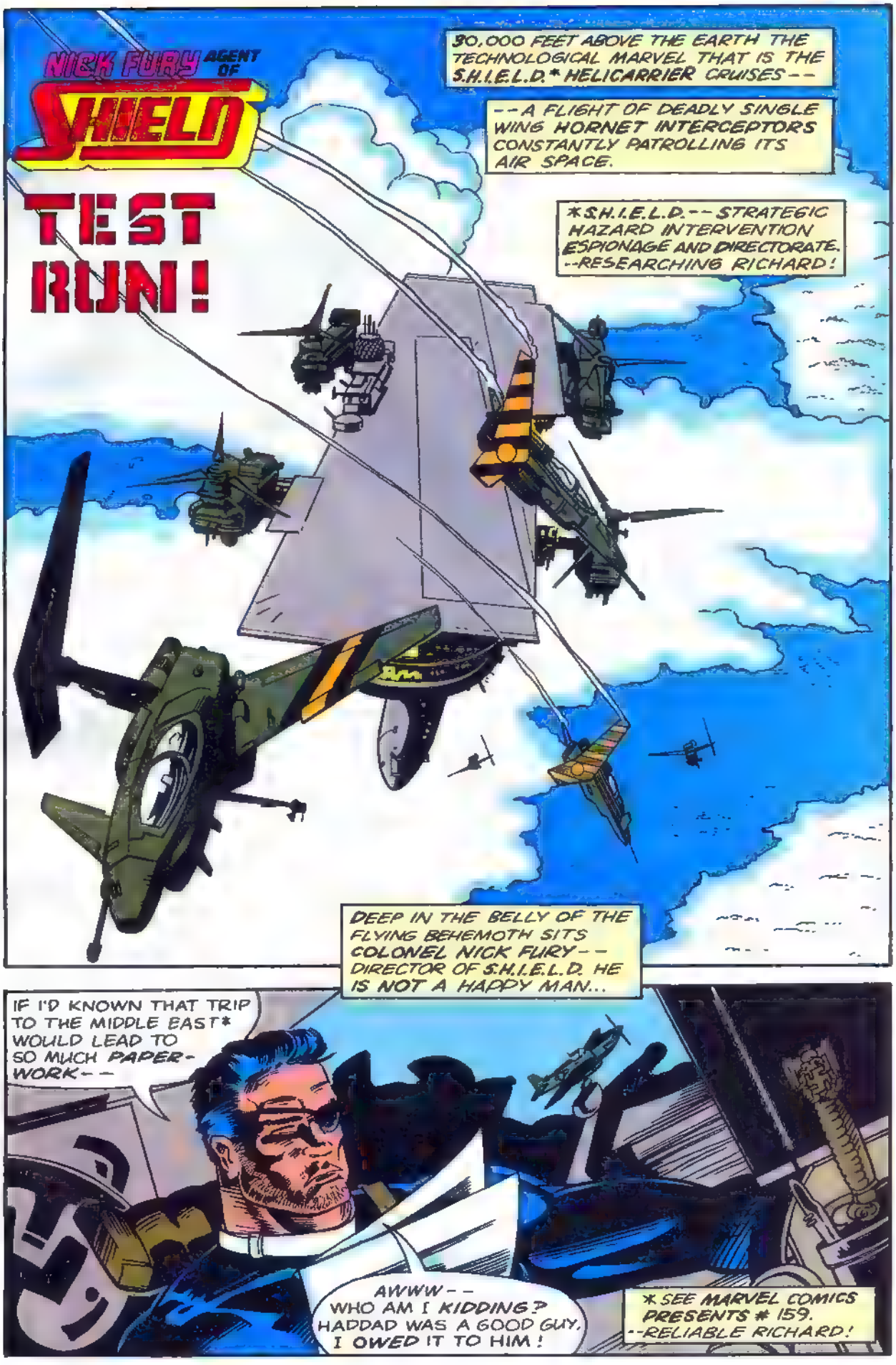

I KNOW THIS FOE NOT--
--BUT IT WOULD SEEM THAT NEITHER DOES HE KNOW THAT SUCH A BLOW COULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON ONE WHO HAS TRAVERSED THE HUNGRY VOIDS BETWEEN THE VERY STARS THEMSELVES!
AND NOW, VILLAIN, BEGINS YOUR EDUCATION IN THE DANGERS OF THREATENING THOSE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE SILVER SURFER!
NOW LISTEN, YOU PORKY PINK LITTLE--
TO ME, MY BOARD!
Whooa!
I DON'T THINK I'LL LIKE--
--HOW THIS TURNS--
OUT.
RZZZT!

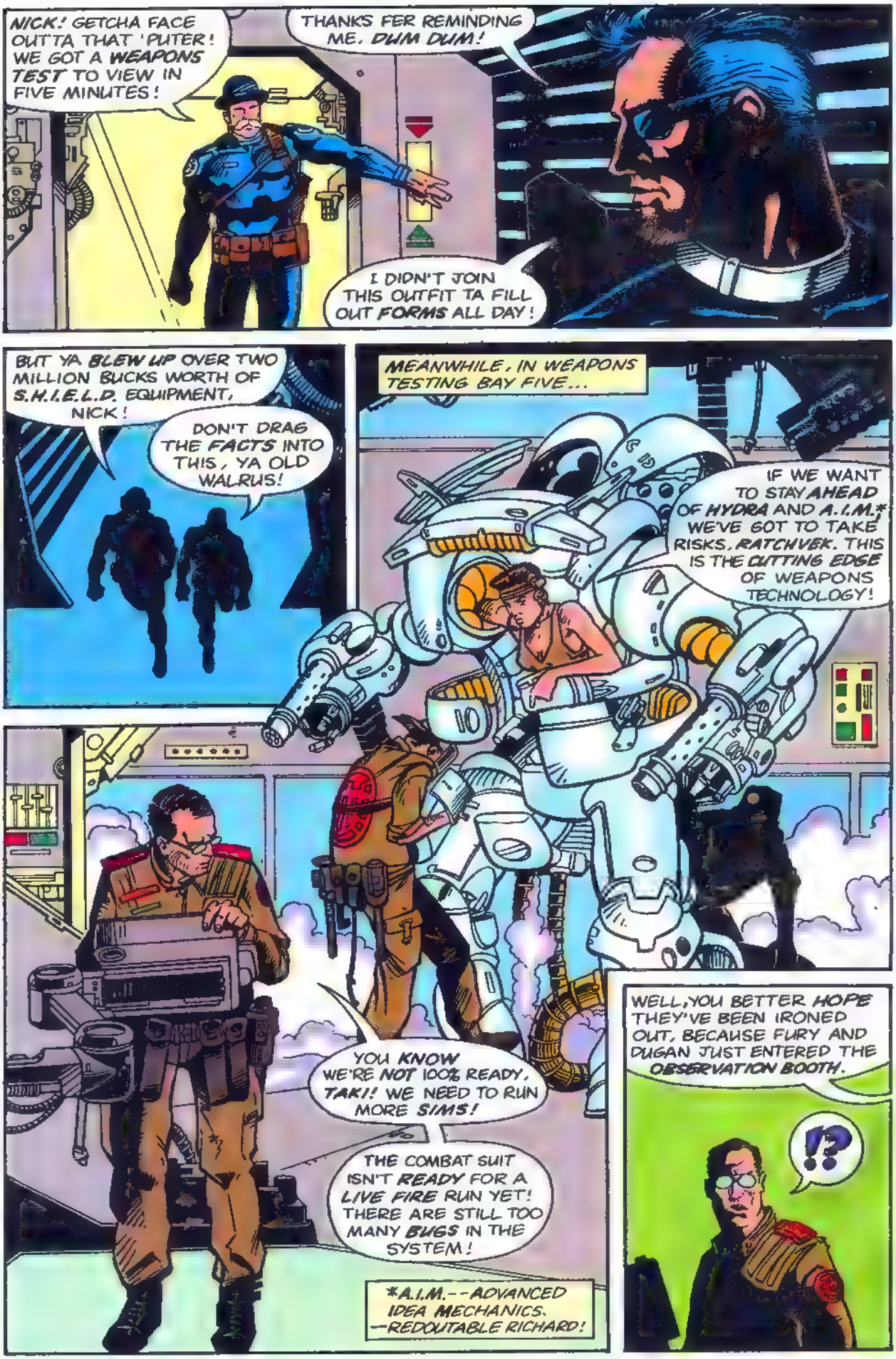
THE THREAT OF THIS MADMAN'S VIOLENCE IS NOW SAFELY AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE OF THE UNDEFILED LITTLE INNOCENTS.
AND IT IS FOR THOSE PURE SOULS THAT I MUST ONCE MORE ENGAGE IN THE MADNESS OF BATTLE.
WILL THERE NEVER BE AN END TO THIS INSANE VIOLENCE?
PERHAPS IT IS MY DESTINY TO ENGAGE IN THESE ENDLESS CONFLICTS.
SURPRISE, TINSEL-BUTT!
KA-RAACK!!
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I BEEN STRUCK WITH SUCH FORCE.
C'MON, BIG BOY C'MON!
DON'T GO SOFT ON ME NOW.

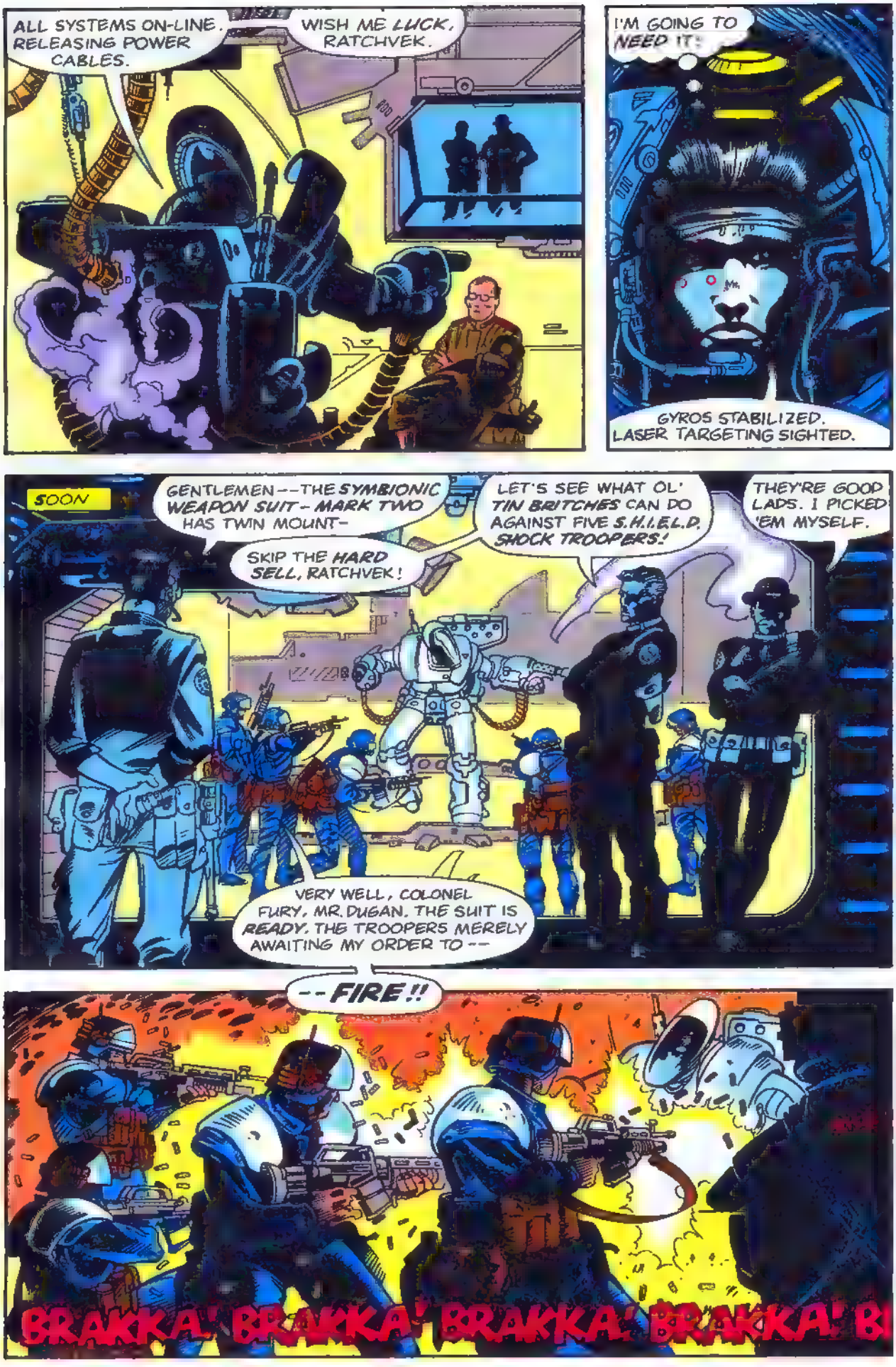

HAK!
HK!
PTUU!
WELL, THERE YOU GO! SO MUCH FOR PROFESSIONAL COURTESY-- Hmph--
--GIVE A LITTLE RESPECT, EXPECT A LITTLE RESPECT.
THEN SOME GUY WITH A FANCY REPUTATION DROPS YOU BEFORE THE BELL'S BEEN RUNG!
WELL, OKAY! FINE! WE'RE OUT OF THE RING NOW, PEARLY!
LET'S JUST SEE WHO HAS THE REPUTATION AFTER THIS LITTLE TO-DO!

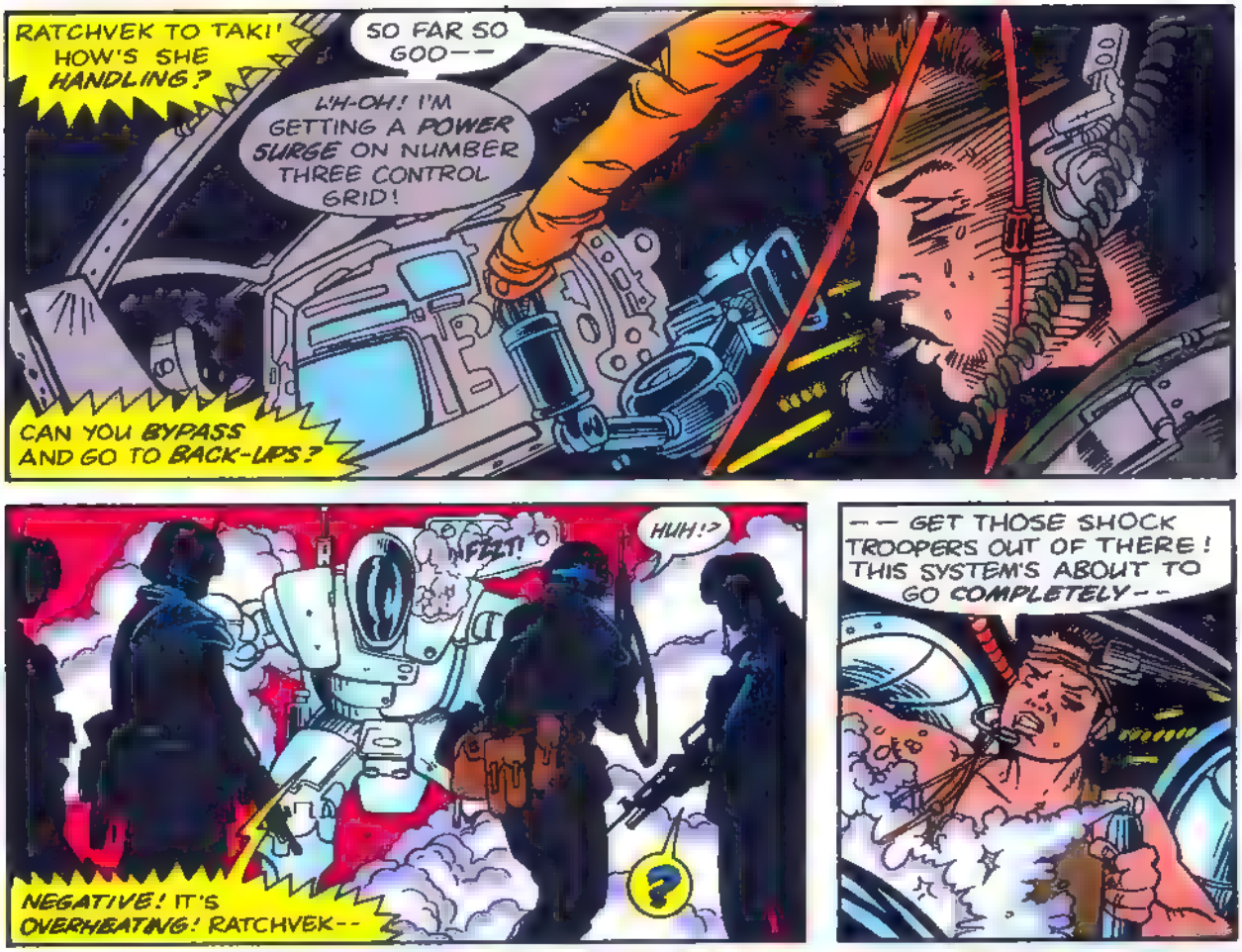

YOUR DIMINUTIVE SIZE WON'T CONCEAL YOUR PRESENCE FROM ME A SECOND TIME!
AWAY, YOU SPURIOUS IMP!
TO KEEP THE UPPER HAND IN BATTLE WITH SUCH BEINGS AS THESE, I MUST MOUNT MY BOARD AND TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM!
HEY, TIN MAN!
SUCK ON THIS!
KA-BANG!

THIS CANNOT BE!
HOW CAN I--GIFTED WITH THE POWER COSMIC--FALL BEFORE SUCH BASE PREDATORS AS THESE?
HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU.
NIGHT-NIGHT, BRIGHT BOY!
THUNK! THUNK! THUNK! THUNK! WAP!
AW GEE, LU, I THINK YOU BROKE IT
YOU THINK SO, SKREET?
BOY, WHAT A SELF-RIGHTEOUS, TIN-PLATED BLOWHARD! BUT HOW DO WE FIND THE FORMULA NOW, BUB?
ISN'T A MATTER OF FINDING IT, SKREET
NO. JUST A MATTER OF PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER.
NEXT: DAMAGES!


NICK FURY AGENT OF SHIELD
TEST RUN!
30,000 FEET ABOVE THE EARTH THE TECHNOLOGICAL MARVEL THAT IS THE S.H.I.E.L.D.* HELICARRIER CRUISES--
--A FLIGHT OF DEADLY SINGLE WING HORNET INTERCEPTORS CONSTANTLY PATROLLING ITS AIR SPACE.
*S.H.I.E.L.D.--STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE AND DIRECTORATE. --RESEARCHING RICHARD!
DEEP IN THE BELLY OF THE FLYING BEHEMOTH SITS COLONEL NICK FURY--DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. HE IS NOT A HAPPY MAN...
IF I'D KNOWN THAT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST* WOULD LEAD TO SO MUCH PAPER-WORK--
AWWW--WHO AM I KIDDING? HADDAD WAS A GOOD GUY. I OWED IT TO HIM!
*SEE MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS # 159. --RELIABLE RICHARD!

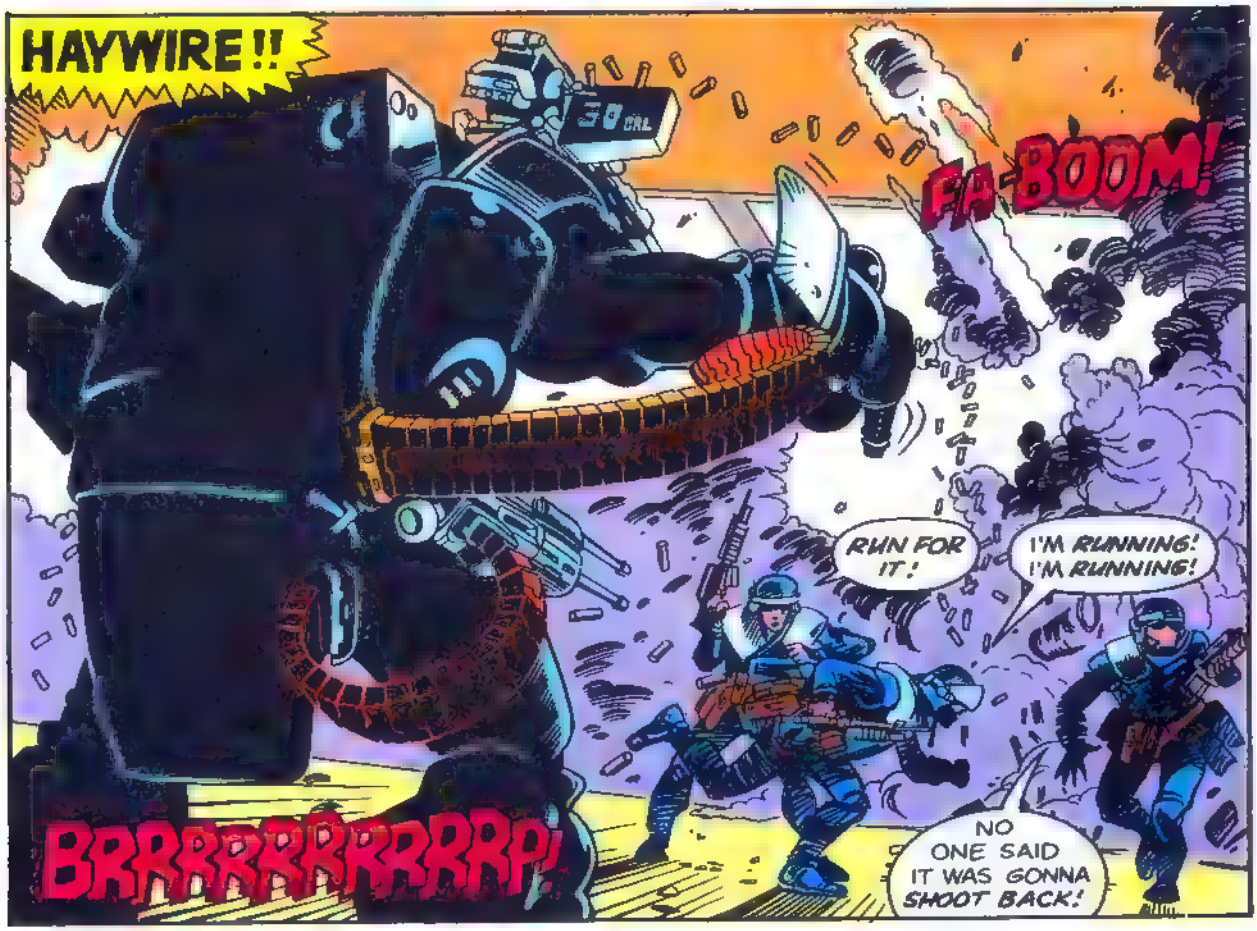

NICK! GETCHA FACE OUTTA THAT 'PUTER! WE GOT A WEAPONS TEST TO VIEW IN FIVE MINUTES!
THANKS FER REMINDING ME, DUM DUM!
I DIDN'T JOIN THIS OUTFIT TA FILL OUT FORMS ALL DAY!
BUT YA BLEW UP OVER TWO MILLION BUCKS WORTH OF S.H.I.E.L.D. EQUIPMENT, NICK!
DON'T DRAG THE FACTS INTO THIS, YA OLD WALRUS!
MEANWHILE, IN WEAPONS TESTING BAY FIVE...
IF WE WANT TO STAY AHEAD OF HYDRA AND A.I.M.* WE'VE GOT TO TAKE RISKS, RATCHVEK. THIS IS THE CUTTING EDGE OF WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY!
YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT 100% READY, TAK! WE NEED TO RUN MORE SIMS!
THE COMBAT SUIT ISN'T READY FOR A LIVE FIRE RUN YET! THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY BUGS IN THE SYSTEM!
*A.I.M.--ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS. --REDOUTABLE RICHARD!
WELL, YOU BETTER HOPE THEY'VE BEEN IRONED OUT, BECAUSE FURY AND DUGAN JUST ENTERED THE OBSERVATION BOOTH.
!?


ALL SYSTEMS ON-LINE. RELEASING POWER CABLES.
WISH ME LUCK, RATCHVEK.
I'M GOING TO NEED IT!
GYROS STABILIZED. LASER TARGETING SIGHTED.
SOON
GENTLEMEN--THE SYMBIONIC WEAPON SUIT - MARK TWO HAS TWIN MOUNT-
SKIP THE HARD SELL, RATCHVEK!
LET'S SEE WHAT OL' TIN BRITCHES CAN DO AGAINST FIVE S.H.I.E.L.D. SHOCK TROOPERS!
THEY'RE GOOD LADS. I PICKED 'EM MYSELF.
VERY WELL, COLONEL FURY, MR. DUGAN. THE SUIT IS READY. THE TROOPERS MERELY AWAITING MY ORDER TO --
--FIRE!!
BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA! B

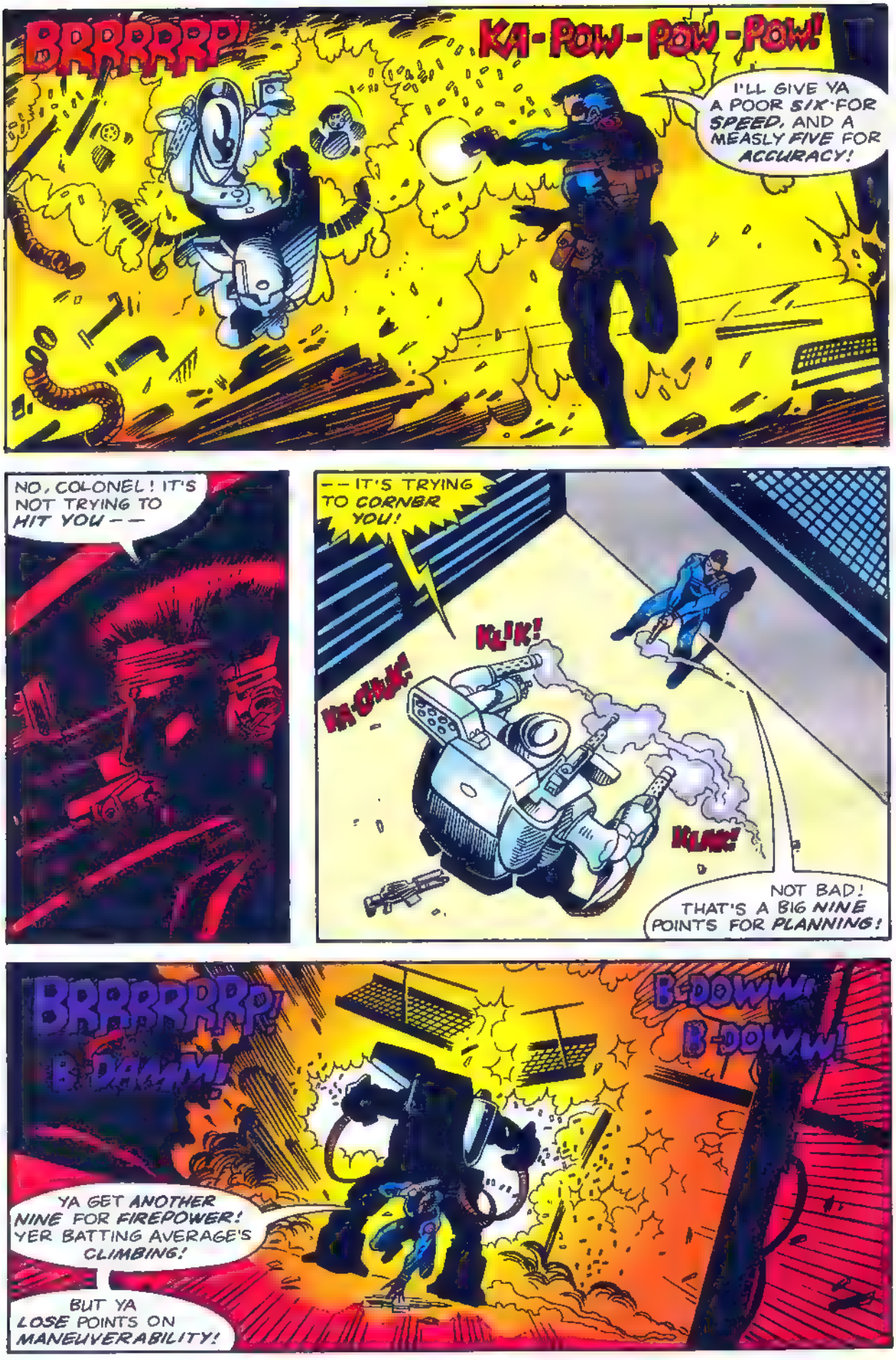

RATCHVEK TO TAK! HOW'S SHE HANDLING?
SO FAR SO GOO--
UH-OH! I'M GETTING A POWER SURGE ON NUMBER THREE CONTROL GRID!
CAN YOU BYPASS AND GO TO BACK-UPS?

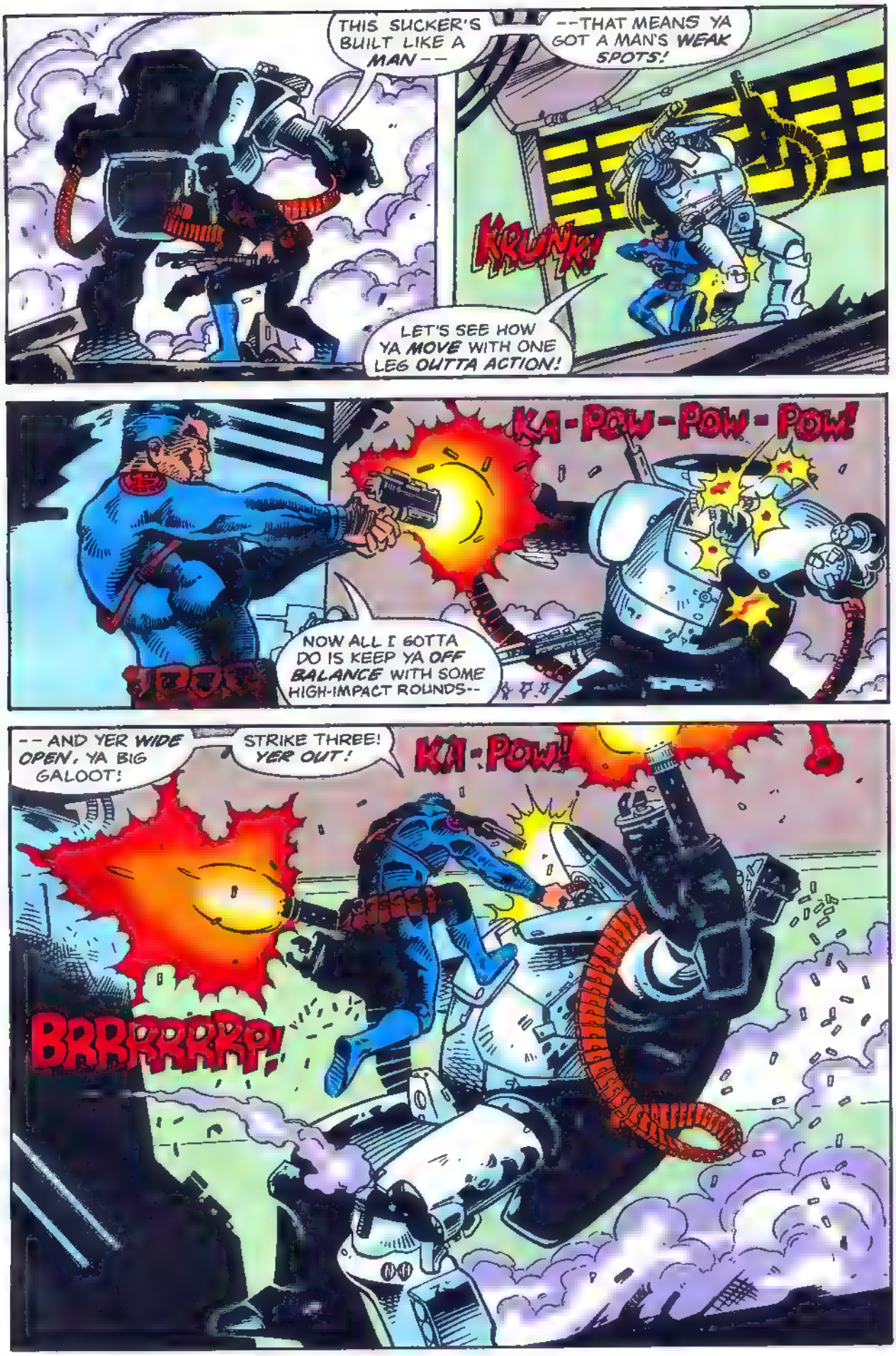
HUH!?
NEGATIVE! IT'S OVERHEATING! RATCHVEK--

-- GET THOSE SHOCK TROOPERS OUT OF THERE! THIS SYSTEM'S ABOUT TO GO COMPLETELY--


HAYWIRE!!
30 CAL
KA-BOOM!
RUN FOR IT!
I'M RUNNING! I'M RUNNING!
BRRRRRRRRRRP!
NO ONE SAID IT WAS GONNA SHOOT BACK!

HIT THE DECK! INCOMING!
KRAK!
I'VE LOST CONTROL!
ARGH!
BA-WHOMPH!
OH MY-
DUM DUM?
RATCHVEK?
WE'RE OKAY, NICK. THE BLAST-ABSORBING PLEXIGLASS SAVED OUR BUTTS.
FURY
I CAME HERE FOR A WEAPONS TEST--
--SO LET'S PUT THIS WAR MACHINE WANNABE THROUGH A REAL S.H.I.E.L.D. TEST RUN!
COLONEL, STAY BACK! THE CENTRAL DATA COILS ARE DESIGNATING ANYTHING THAT MOVES AS HOSTILE! I CAN'T STOP IT!
DON'T TRY TO FIGHT IT. THIS AREA'S BUILT TO TAKE PUNISHMENT, AND I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
LET'S SEE WHAT THIS TOY SOLDIER CAN DO!


BRRRRRP!
KA-POW-POW-POW!
I'LL GIVE YA A POOR SIX FOR SPEED, AND A MEASLY FIVE FOR ACCURACY!
NO, COLONEL! IT'S NOT TRYING TO HIT YOU--
--IT'S TRYING TO CORNER YOU!
KLIK!
KA-CHUK!
KLUK!
NOT BAD! THAT'S A BIG NINE POINTS FOR PLANNING!
BRRRRRP!
B-DAWW!
B-DOWW!
B-DOWW!
YA GET ANOTHER NINE FOR FIREPOWER! YER BATTING AVERAGE'S CLIMBING!
BUT YA LOSE POINTS ON MANEUVERABILITY!


THIS SUCKER'S BUILT LIKE A MAN--
--THAT MEANS YA GOT A MAN'S WEAK SPOTS!
KRUNK!
LET'S SEE HOW YA MOVE WITH ONE LEG OUTTA ACTION!
KA-POW-POW-POW!
NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS KEEP YA OFF BALANCE WITH SOME HIGH-IMPACT ROUNDS--
--AND YER WIDE OPEN, YA BIG GALOOT!
STRIKE THREE! YER OUT!
KA-POW!
BRRRRRRP!

LOOKS LIKE YA FLUNKED THE TEST, RUSTBUCKET. SEE ME AFTER CLASS.
LATER--AS MEDICS PATCH UP THE INJURED AND TECHS BEGIN THE REPAIRS...
I WAS AGAINST THIS FROM THE START.
WE WEREN'T READY FOR A LIVE FIRE TEST RUN.
I SAID WE NEEDED TO RUN A FEW MORE SIMS.
COOL YOUR JETS, RATCHVEK!
OKAY, YA FAILED THIS TIME, GET IT RIGHT NEXT TIME!
D'YA THINK HYDRA AND A.I.M. ARE HOLDING BACK ON R&D?
STICK WITH IT--
--AND WHEN THE NEXT MODEL'S READY GIVE ME A CALL. I CAN ALWAYS USE A WORKOUT!
YA KNOW YOU'LL HAVE TO FILE A REPORT ON THIS, NICK!
THE END

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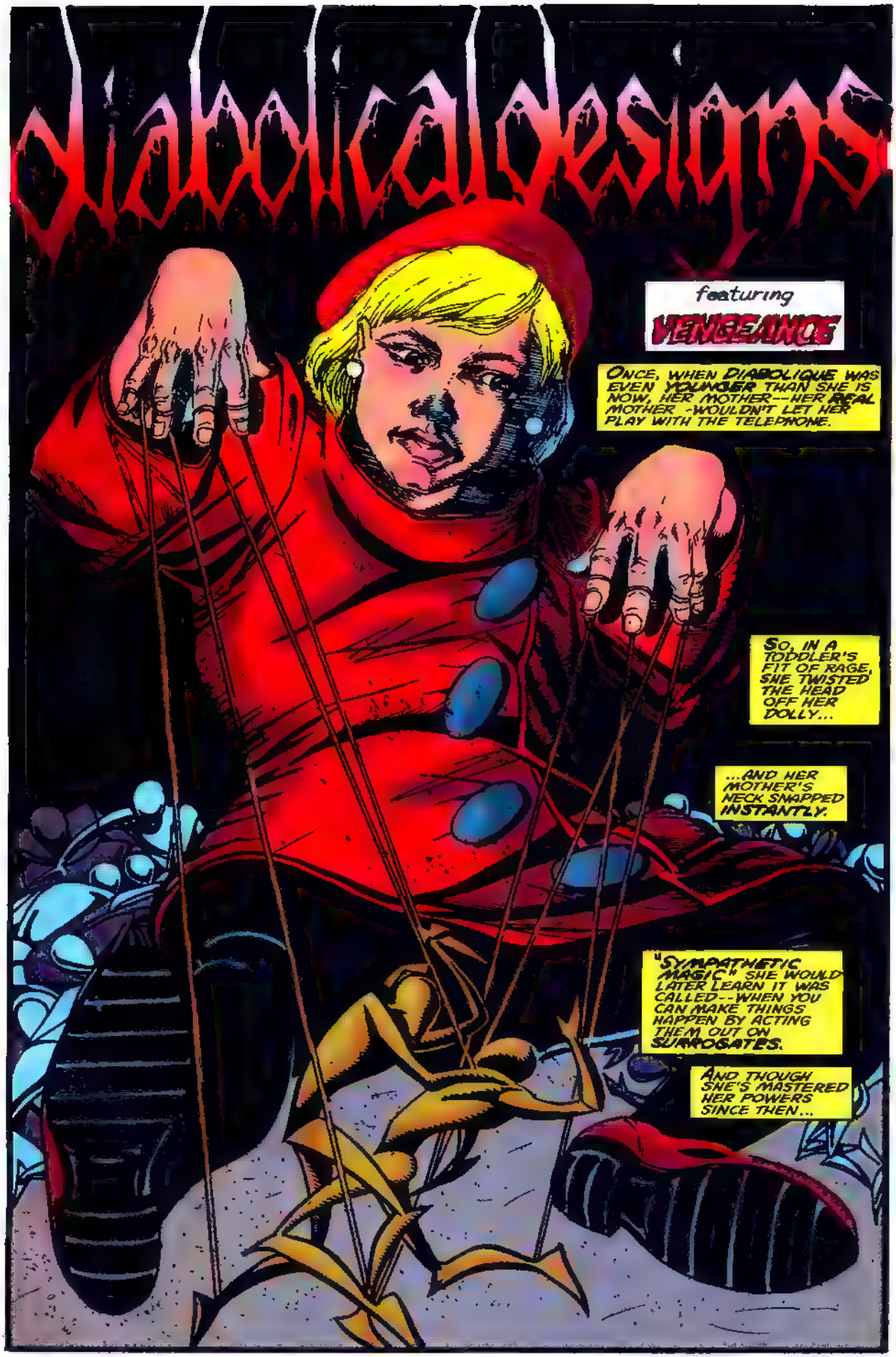
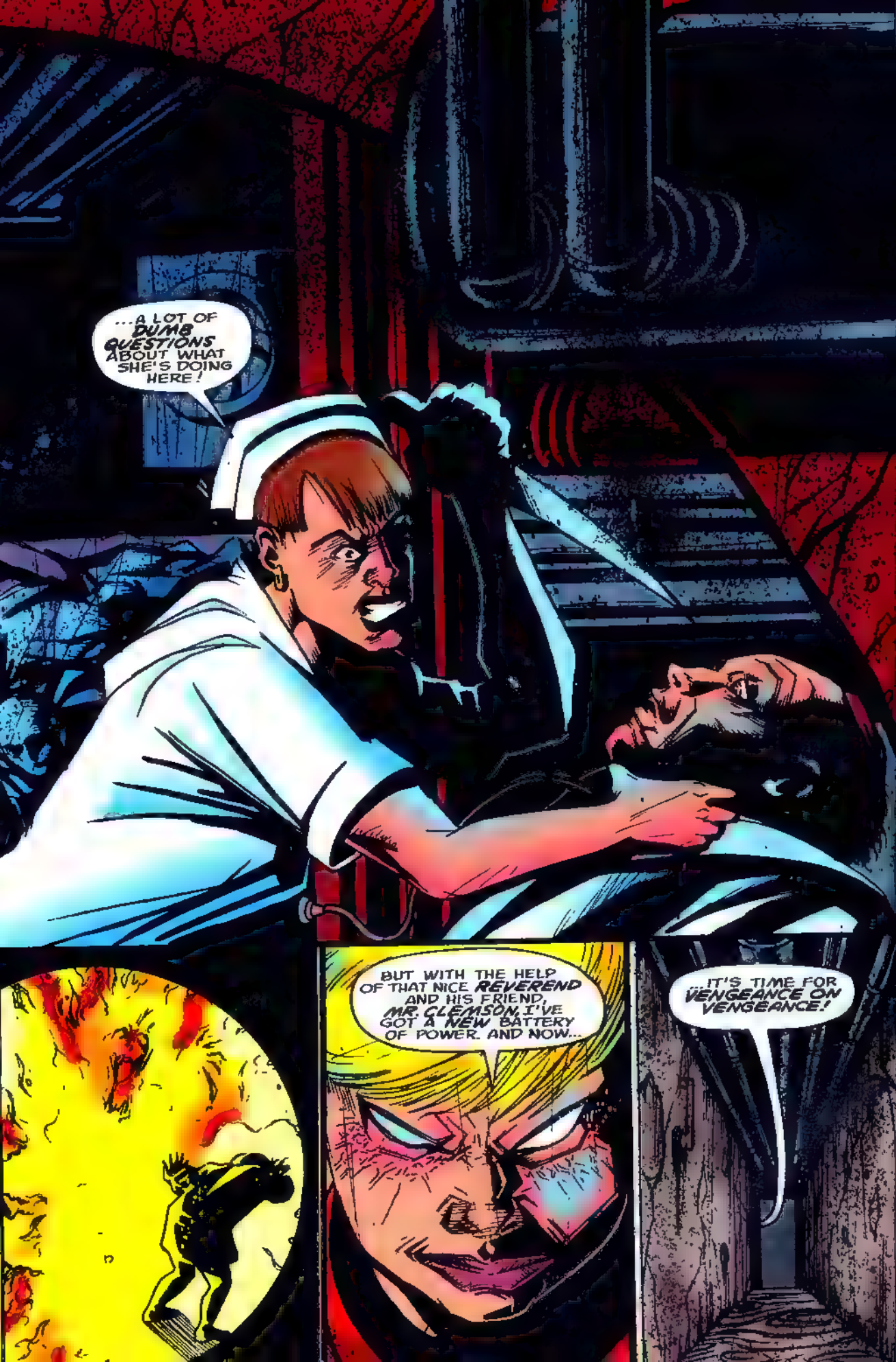
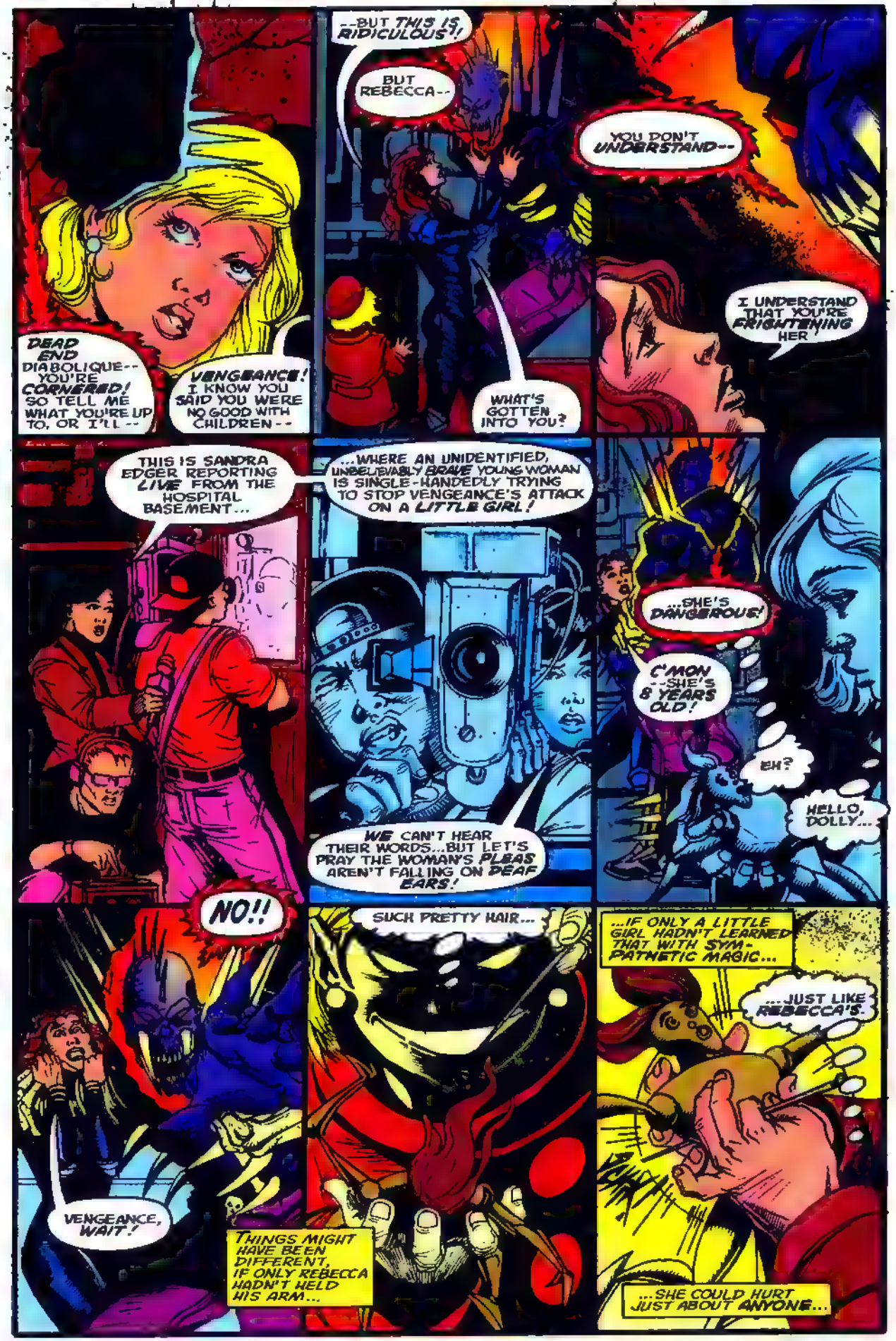

diabolical designs
featuring
VENGEANCE
ONCE, WHEN DIABOLIQUE WAS EVEN YOUNGER THAN SHE IS NOW, HER MOTHER--HER REAL MOTHER -WOULDN'T LET HER PLAY WITH THE TELEPHONE.
SO, IN A TODDLER'S FIT OF RAGE, SHE TWISTED THE HEAD OFF HER DOLLY...
...AND HER MOTHER'S NECK SNAPPED INSTANTLY.
"SYMPATHETIC MAGIC" SHE WOULD LATER LEARN IT WAS CALLED--WHEN YOU CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN BY ACTING THEM OUT ON SURROGATES.
AND THOUGH SHE'S MASTERED HER POWERS SINCE THEN...

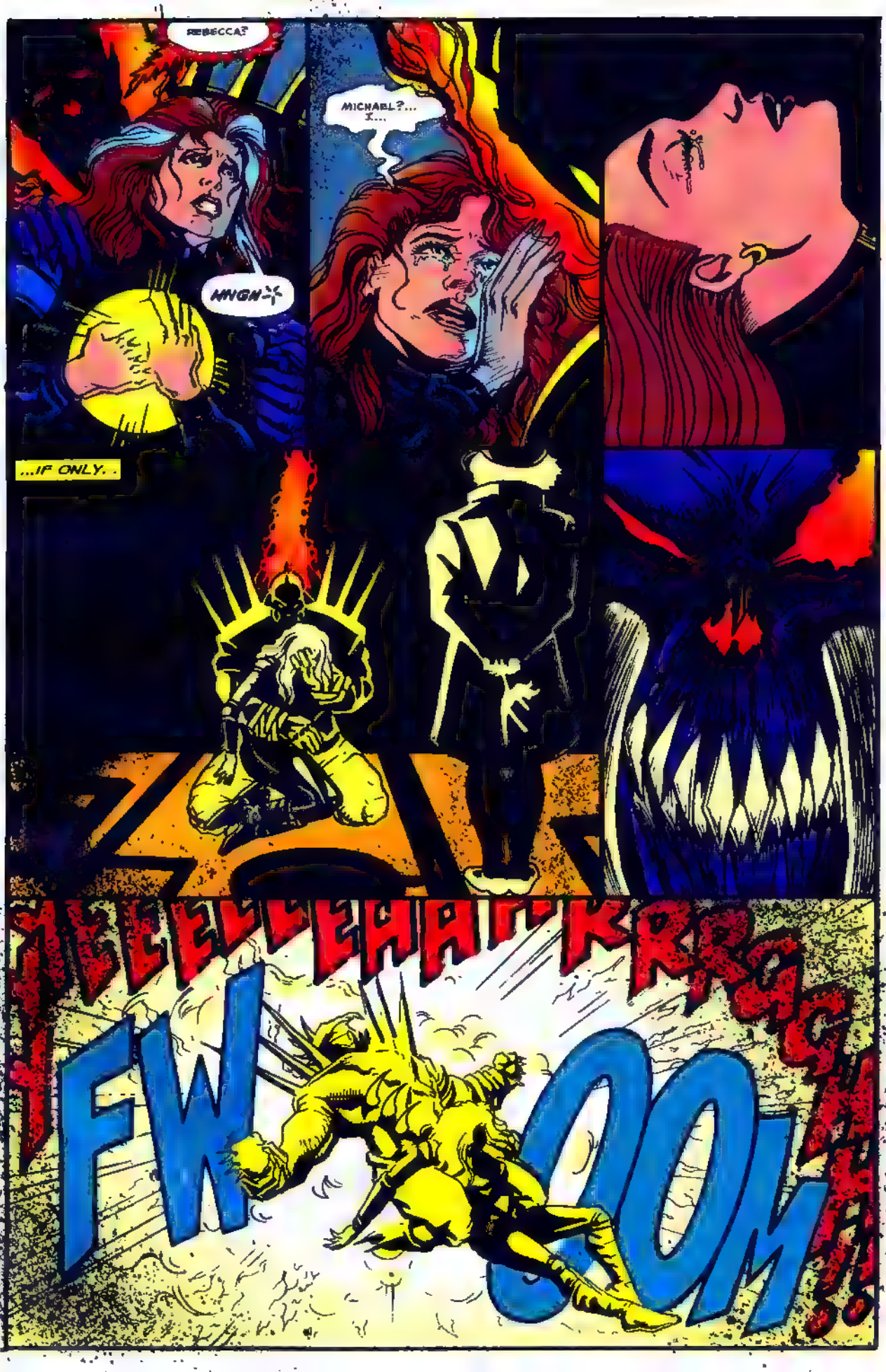

...A LOT OF DUMB QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE!
BUT WITH THE HELP OF THAT NICE REVEREND AND HIS FRIEND, MR. CLEMSON, I'VE GOT A NEW BATTERY OF POWER. AND NOW...
...IT'S TIME FOR VENGEANCE ON VENGEANCE!

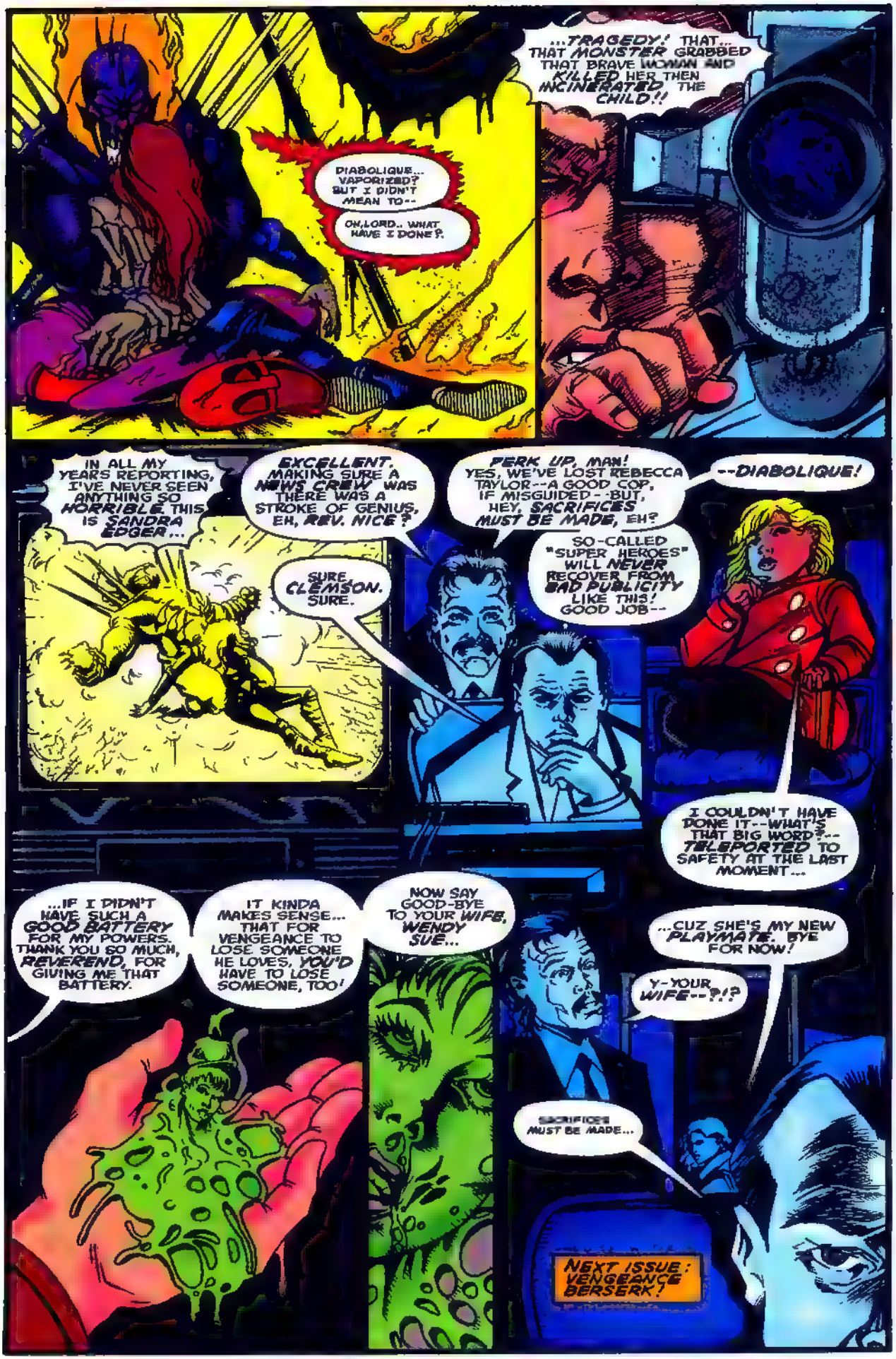
...SHE STILL DOESN'T TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF HER TOYS,
"BAD DOCTOR! JUST LIKE THE OTHERS, ASKING THAT NICE LITTLE GIRL DIABOLIQUE..."
SILLY! I'M HERE TO HURT VENGEANCE, OF COURSE, FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME!
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS KILL VENGEANCE TO BECOME THE APPRENTICE TO THE SORCERESS SUPREME...
...BUT HE DESTOYED MY PLAYMATE, THE CAPTIVE SOULS THAT WERE THE BATTERY THAT POWERED MY SPELLS!*
*IN MCP #163. --RICHARD

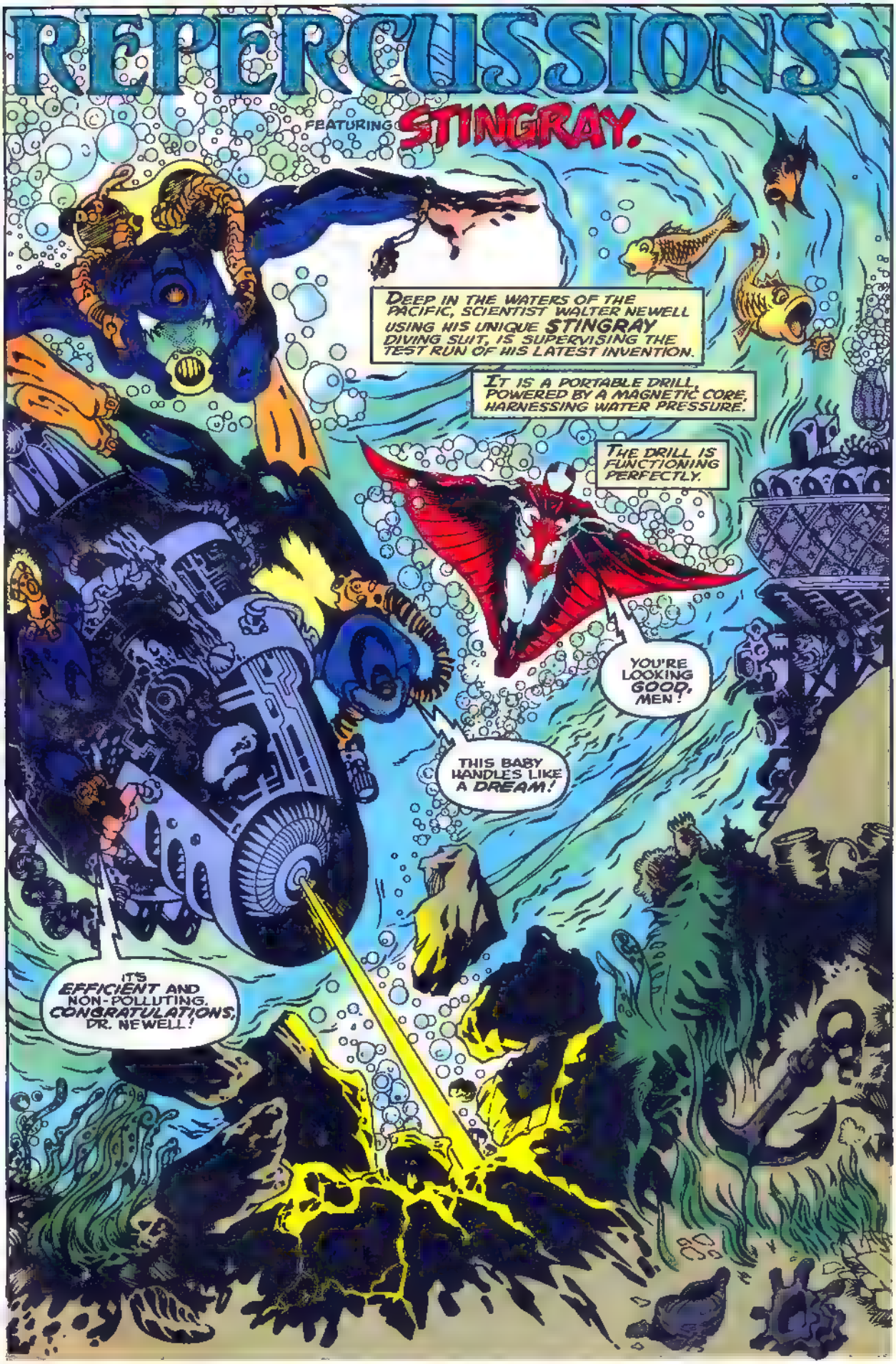
BROOKLYN, SOMETIME LATER ..
NICE RIDE... THIS BIKE'S GOT SOME MUSCLE.
NEXT TIME, MICHAEL, I WANT YOU TO TRANSFORM INTO VENGEANCE...
...SO I CAN TRY DRIVING YOUR SUPERNATURAL WHEELS. THAT'D BE A TRIP!
THE WAY YOU DRIVE, REBECCA, IT'D BE A REAL SHORT ONE.
OH, MY GOD -- A JOKE AND A SMILE?, WHY LIEUTENANT BADILINO, WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?
MAYBE IT'S THE FACT THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FEEL LIKE VENGEANCE IS UNDER CONTROL...
...THAT WHEN I'M VENGEANCE, I DON'T HAVE TO BE A KILLING MACHINE. I CAN RESTRAIN THE VIOLENCE, HARNESS MY POWER CONSTRUCTIVELY.
OR MAYBE IT'S JUST THE EFFECTS OF HAVING YOU IN MY ARMS.
EITHER WAY, I'VE GOT A LOT TO SMILE ABOUT RIGHT NOW!
AW, CRIPES--HE'S GETTING ALL MUSHY ON ME! SHUT UP AND DRIVE, TOUGH GUY, BEFORE YOUR REP'S TOTALLY SHOT. I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL.
THE HOSPITAL--?!
RELAX, I'M FINE. IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I WAS THERE RE-CUPERATING FROM THE BIG GAME POSSE'S ATTACK*--
I SAW A LOT OF ORPHANED SICK KIDS STUCK THERE WITH NOBODY TO LOVE THEM.
*IN MCP #156. --RICHARD
SO EVER SINCE, WHENEVER I HAVE SOME TIME OFF, I VOLUNTEER TO BE WITH THE KIDS.
THERE'S ONE LITTLE GIRL, A NEW KID. ALL THE OTHER KIDS ARE TERRIFIED OF HER. SHE IS A BIT WEIRD...ASKED FOR A LOCK OF MY HAIR...
YOU LITTLE TRICKSTER! THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED TO GO FOR A RIDE -- TO GET ME HERE AND ROPE ME INTO BABY-SITTING!
WELL... I WAS HOPING YOU'D TALK TO THE GIRL, SEE IF YOU COULD REACH HER.
ALL RIGHT--JUST THIS ONCE, JUST FOR YOU.
BUT I'M WARNING YOU IN ADVANCE, I'M NO GOOD WITH CHILDREN!

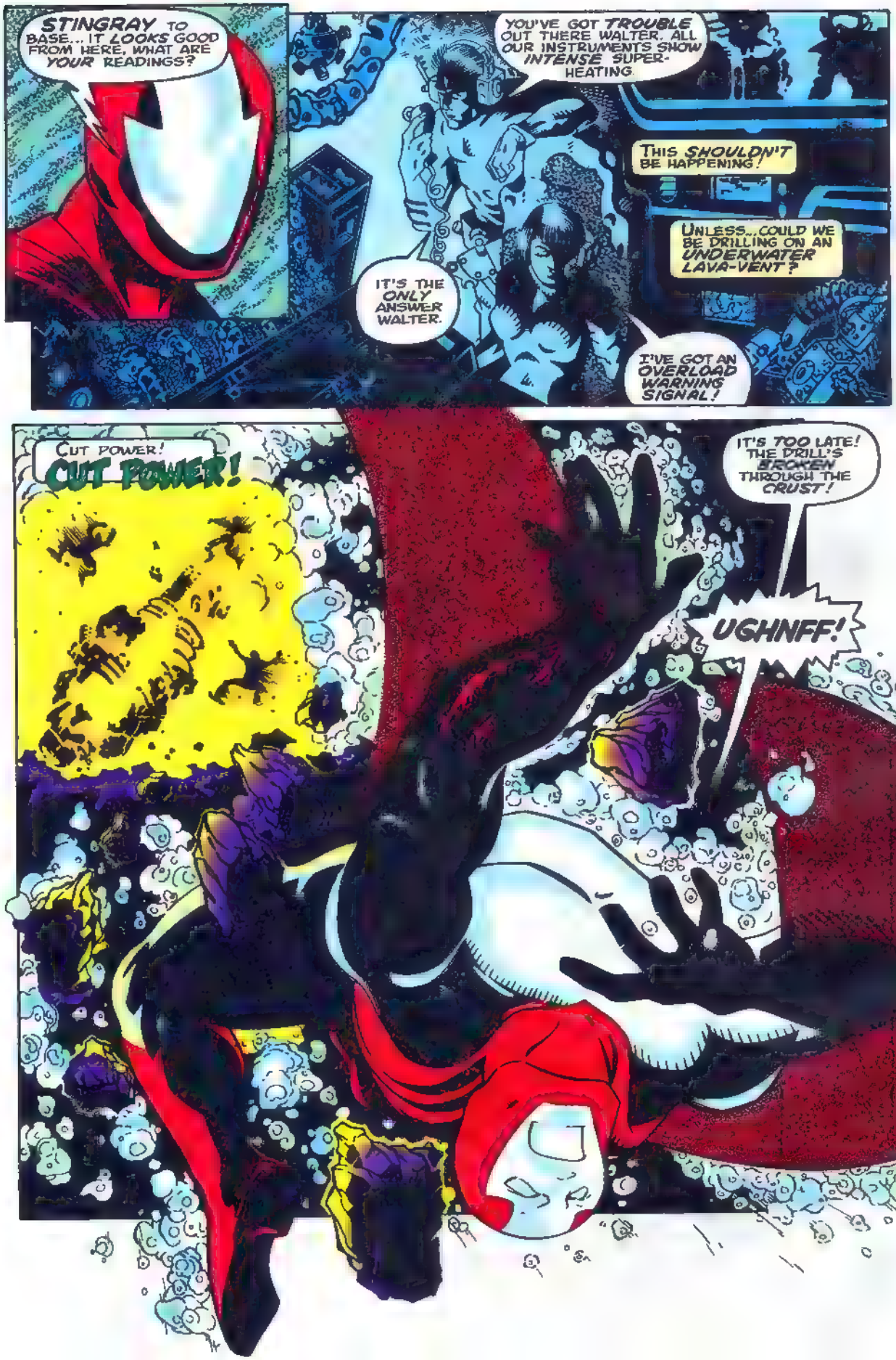
HI, REBECCA!
WHA--?!
DIABOLIQUE!!
HELLO, DIANA. MICHAEL MEET DIANA BOLICK--
C'MERE, YOU BRAT!
EEEEEEK!
FWOOSH
VENGEANCE NO!!
ARE YOU GETTING THIS, JIM! THIS IS THE SCOOP OF THE YEAR!
THE THOUGHT OF THAT WITCH-GIRL USING REBECCA TO GET TO ME...
IF THE BRAT'S DONE ANYTHING TO HARM REBECCA, I'LL...
HOORAY! THIS IS PERFECT!
A NEWS CREWS! BUT NOW--?!
WHERE DID YOU GET A NEW BATTERY FOR YOUR POWERS?!
WHOSE BODY AND SOUL DID YOU ENSLAVE?!!
HOW MANY LIVES DID YOU DESTROY?!!
TO BASEME


DEAD END DIABOLIQUE-- YOU'RE CORNERED! SO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, OR I'LL --
VENGEANCE! I KNOW YOU SAID YOU WERE NO GOOD WITH CHILDREN --
--BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
BUT REBECCA--
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE FRIGHTENING HER!
THIS IS SANDRA EDGER REPORTING LIVE FROM THE HOSPITAL BASEMENT...
...WHERE AN UNIDENTIFIED, UNBELIEVABLY BRAVE YOUNG WOMAN IS SINGLE-HANDEDLY TRYING TO STOP VENGEANCE'S ATTACK ON A LITTLE GIRL!
WE CAN'T HEAR THEIR WORDS...BUT LET'S PRAY THE WOMAN'S PLEAS AREN'T FALLING ON DEAF EARS!
...SHE'S DANGEROUS!
C'MON --SHE'S 8 YEARS OLD!
EH?
HELLO, DOLLY...
NO!!
VENGEANCE, WAIT!
SUCH PRETTY HAIR...
THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, IF ONLY REBECCA HADN'T HELD HIS ARM...
...IF ONLY A LITTLE GIRL HADN'T LEARNED THAT WITH SYMPATHETIC MAGIC...
...JUST LIKE REBECCA'S.
...SHE COULD HURT JUST ABOUT ANYONE...

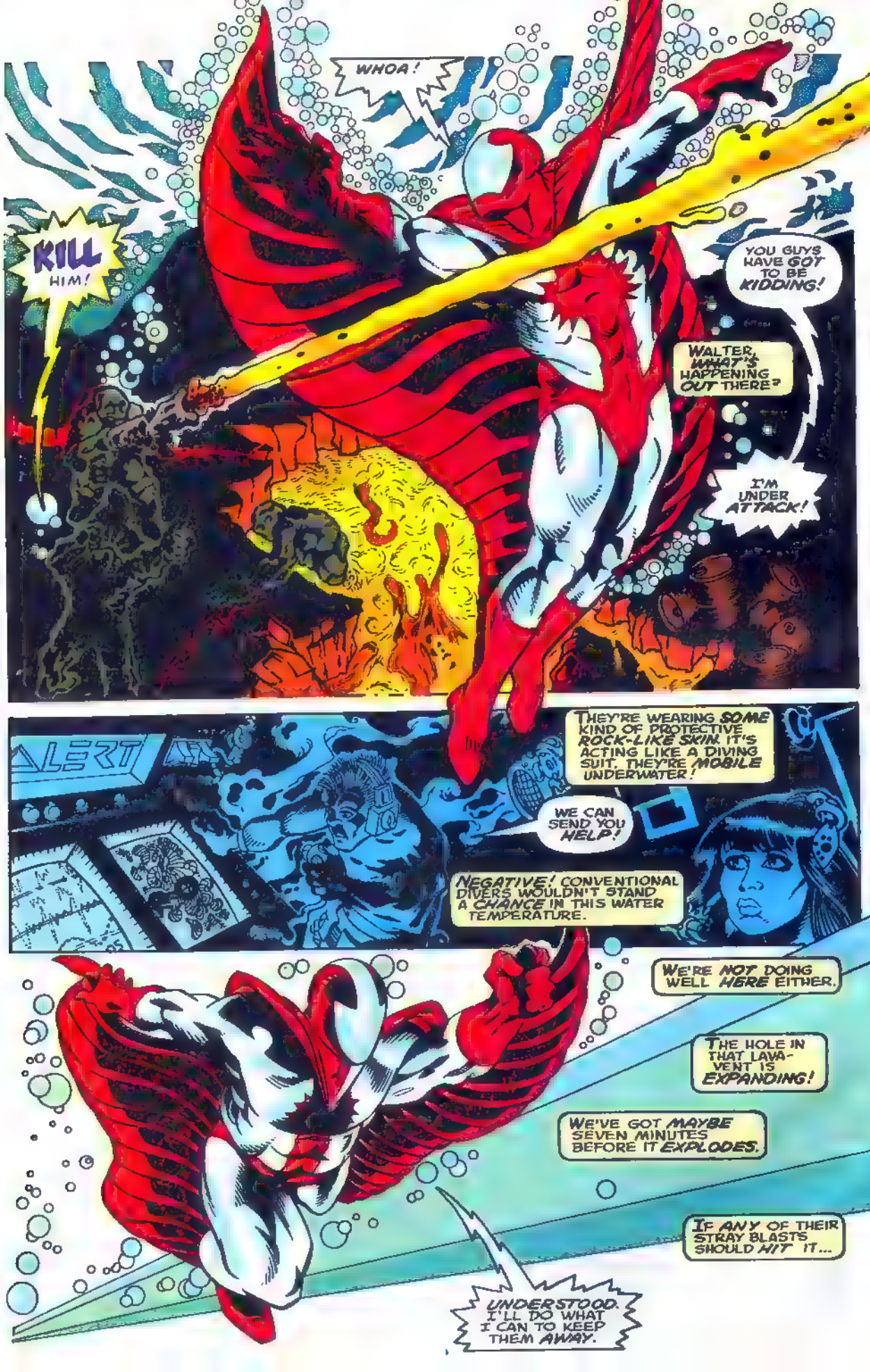

REBECCA?
MICHAEL?... X...
NNGN-!
...IF ONLY..
SLEEPEHAWK
FWOOM!

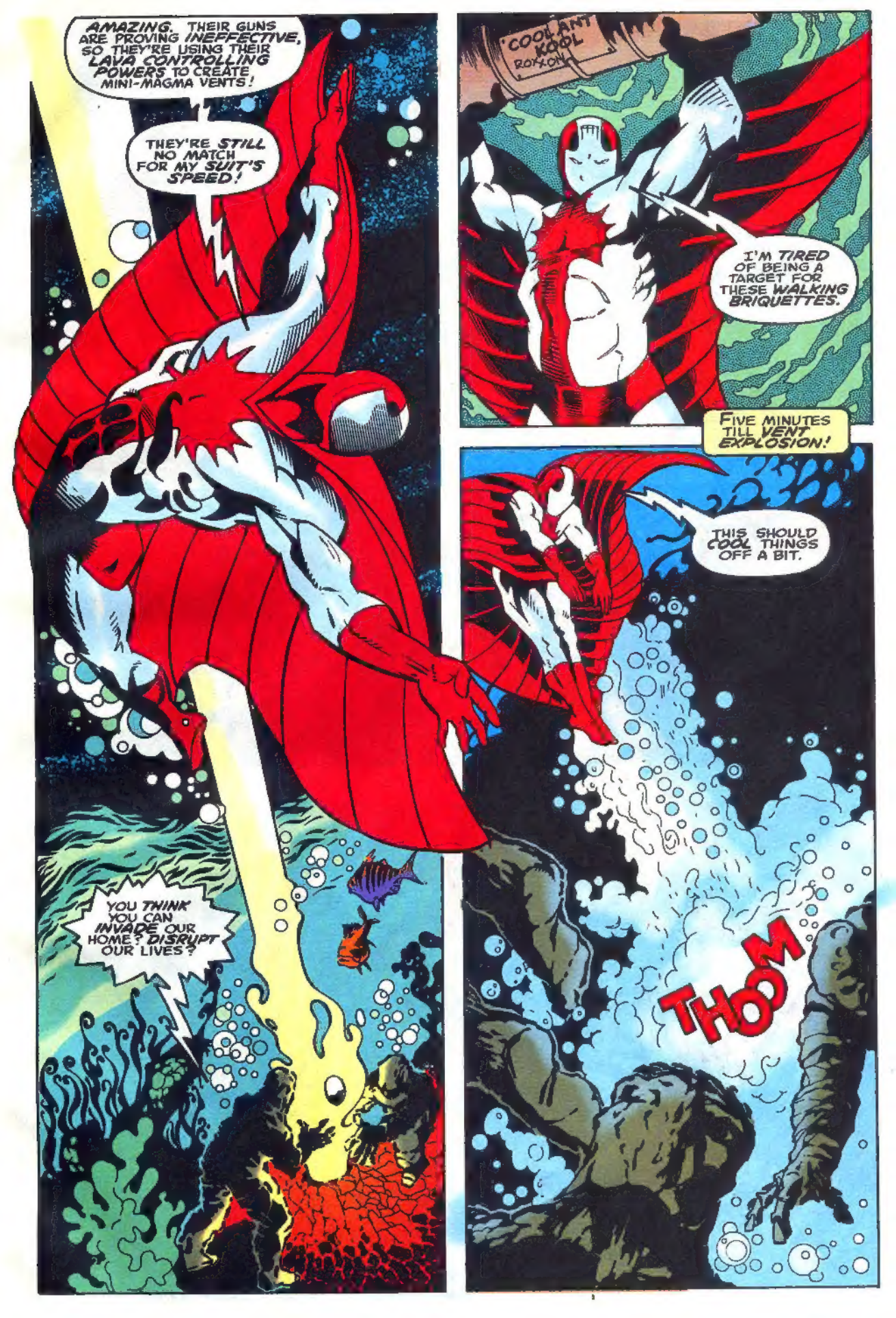

DIABOLIQUE... VAPORIZED? BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
OH, LORD.. WHAT HAVE I DONE?
...TRAGEDY! THAT... THAT MONSTER GRABBED THAT BRAVE WOMAN AND KILLED HER THEN INCINERATED THE CHILD!!
IN ALL MY YEARS REPORTING, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO HORRIBLE. THIS IS SANDRA EDGER...
EXCELLENT. MAKING SURE A NEWS CREW WAS THERE WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS, EH, REV. NICE?
SURE, CLEMSON. SURE.
PERK UP, MAN! YES, WE'VE LOST REBECCA TAYLOR--A GOOD COP, IF MISGUIDED--BUT, HEY, SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE, EH?
SO-CALLED "SUPER HEROES" WILL NEVER RECOVER FROM BAD PUBLICITY LIKE THIS! GOOD JOB--
--DIABOLIQUE!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT--WHAT'S THAT BIG WORD?--TELEPORTED TO SAFETY AT THE LAST MOMENT...
...IF I DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A GOOD BATTERY FOR MY POWERS. THANK YOU SO MUCH, REVEREND, FOR GIVING ME THAT BATTERY.
IT KINDA MAKES SENSE... THAT FOR VENGEANCE TO LOSE SOMEONE HE LOVES, YOU'D HAVE TO LOSE SOMEONE, TOO!
NOW SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR WIFE, WENDY SUE...
...CUZ SHE'S MY NEW PLAYMATE. BYE FOR NOW!
Y-YOUR WIFE--?!?
SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE...
NEXT ISSUE: VENGEANCE BERSERK!

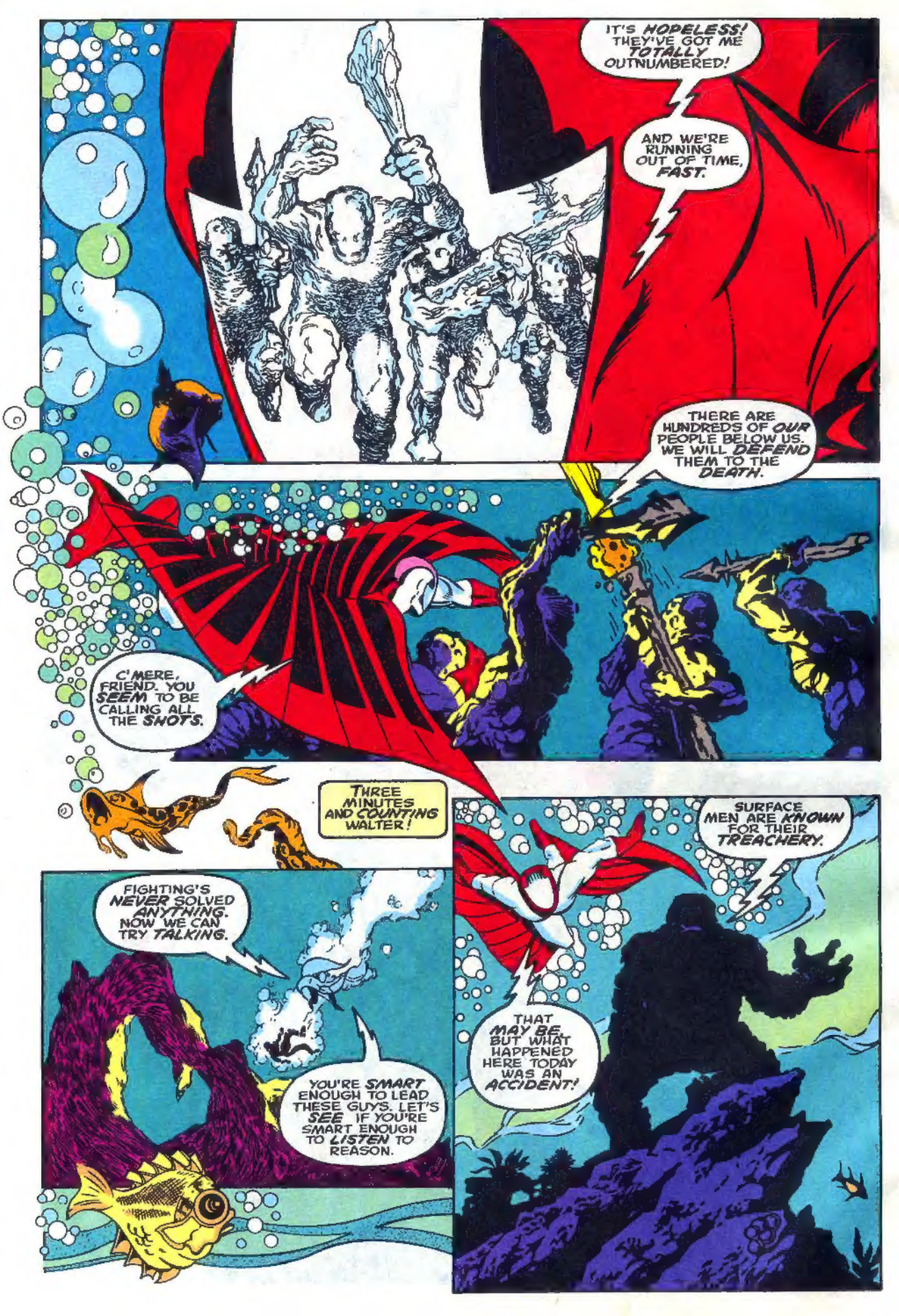

REPERCUSSIONS-
FEATURING STINGRAY.
DEEP IN THE WATERS OF THE PACIFIC, SCIENTIST WALTER NEWELL USING HIS UNIQUE STINGRAY DIVING SUIT, IS SUPERVISING THE TEST RUN OF HIS LATEST INVENTION.
IT IS A PORTABLE DRILL, POWERED BY A MAGNETIC CORE, HARNESSING WATER PRESSURE.
THE DRILL IS FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY.
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, MEN!
THIS BABY HANDLES LIKE A DREAM!
IT'S EFFICIENT AND NON-POLLUTING. CONGRATULATIONS, DR. NEWELL!

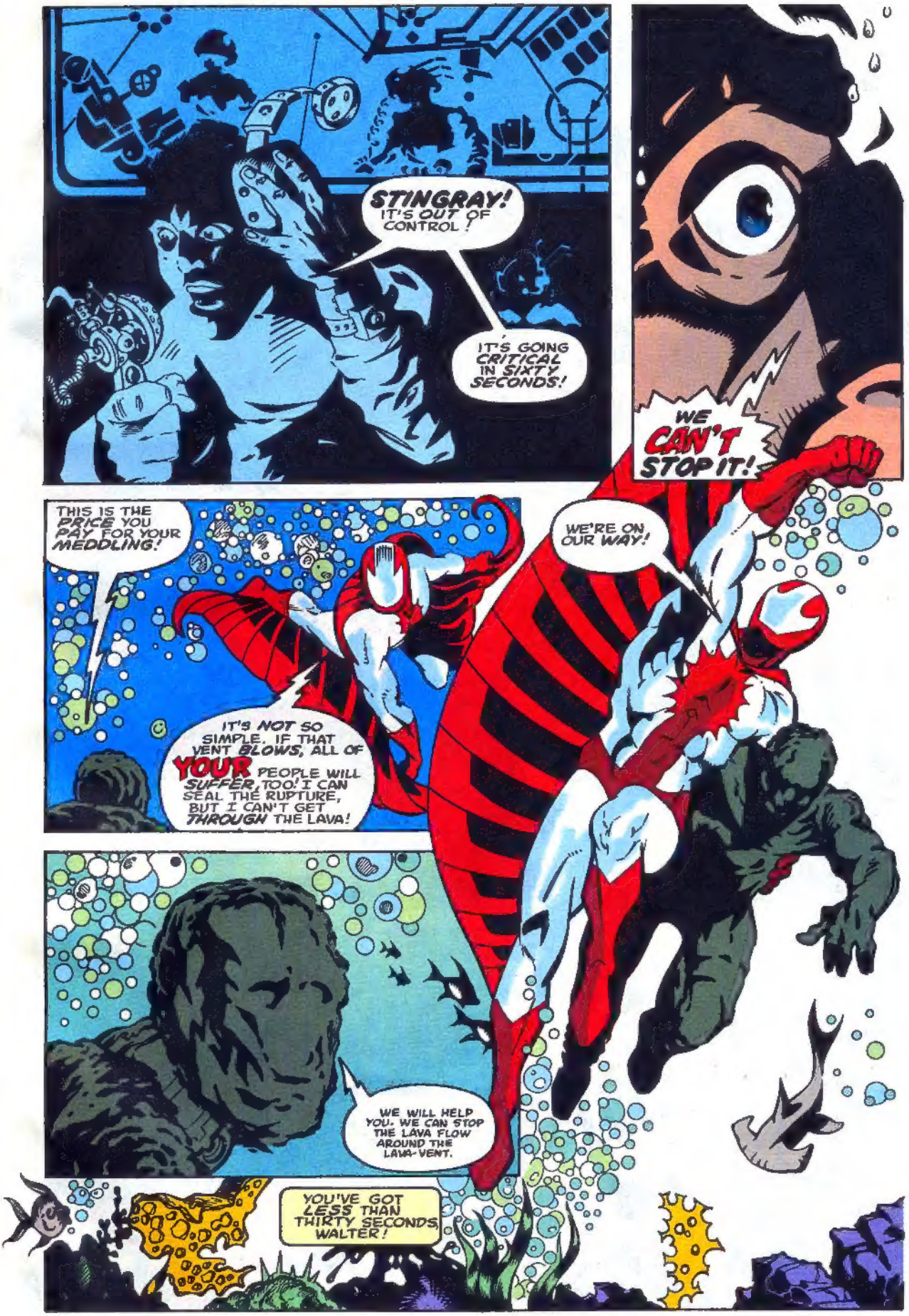

STINGRAY TO BASE... IT LOOKS GOOD FROM HERE, WHAT ARE YOUR READINGS?
YOU'VE GOT TROUBLE OUT THERE WALTER. ALL OUR INSTRUMENTS SHOW INTENSE SUPER-HEATING.
THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING!
UNLESS...COULD WE BE DRILLING ON AN UNDERWATER LAVA-VENT?
IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER WALTER.
I'VE GOT AN OVERLOAD WARNING SIGNAL!
CUT POWER!
CUT POWER!
IT'S TOO LATE! THE DRILL'S BROKEN THROUGH THE CRUST!
UGHNFF!

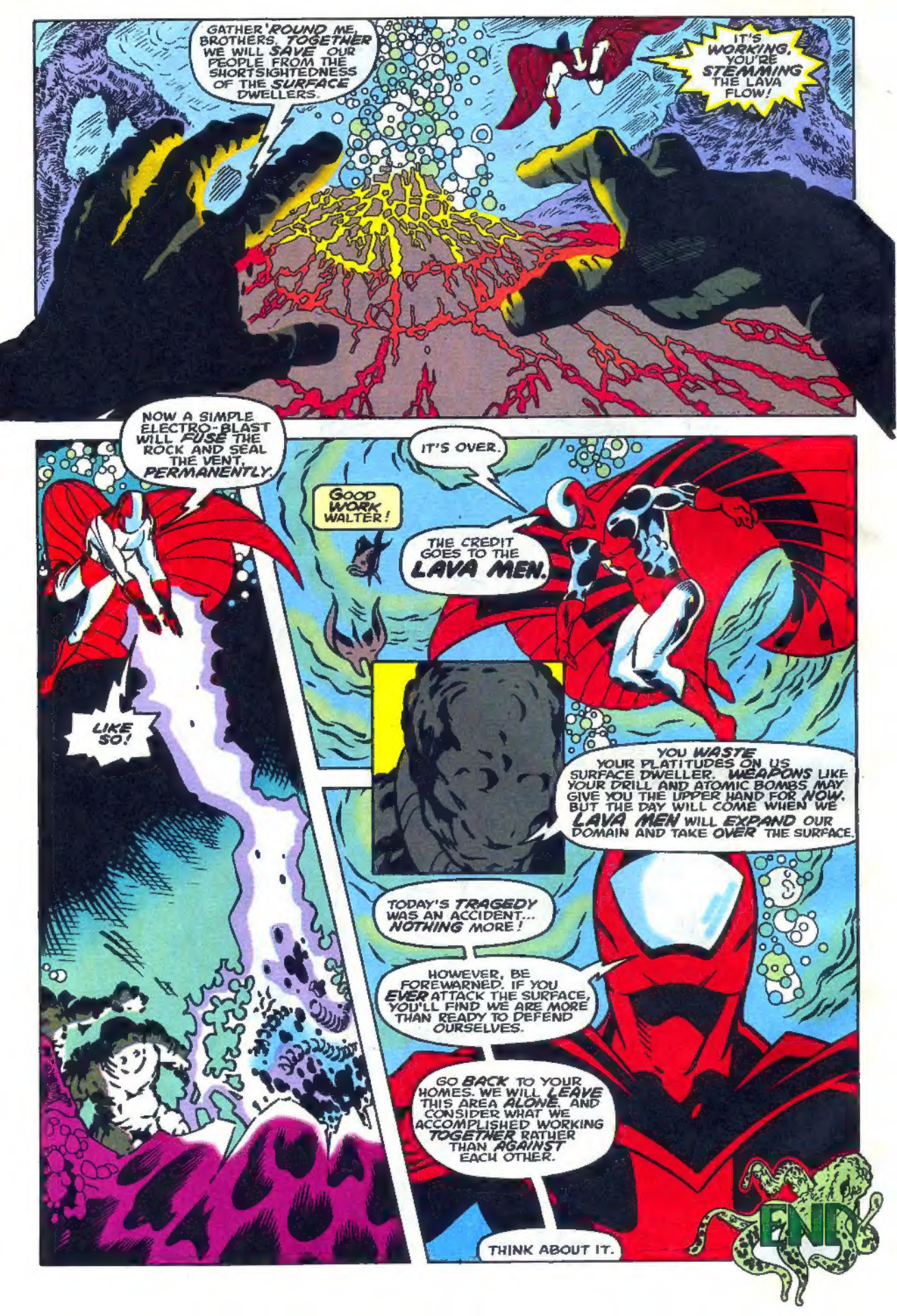
WALTER! ARE YOU AND THE MEN ALL RIGHT?
WALTER, THE VENT IS STILL ACTIVE. IT'S BUILDING UP TO AN ERUPTION WHICH WILL MAKE THAT LAST EXPLOSION SEEM LIKE A BURP!
SOME MINOR INJURIES, THEY'RE ALL HEADING BACK.
THAT'S THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS.
THE DRILL DIDN'T JUST RUPTURE AN UNDERWATER LAVA VENT.
WE'VE HIT THE HOME OF THE LAVA MEN.
AND THEY'RE NOT HAPPY
HUMANS
WE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THAT AT THE HEART OF THIS DISASTER WE WOULD FIND YOUR KIND!


WHOA!
KILL HIM!
YOU GUYS HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
WALTER, WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?
I'M UNDER ATTACK!
ALERT
THEY'RE WEARING SOME KIND OF PROTECTIVE ROCK-LIKE SKIN. IT'S ACTING LIKE A DIVING SUIT. THEY'RE MOBILE UNDERWATER!
WE CAN SEND YOU HELP!
NEGATIVE! CONVENTIONAL DIVERS WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE IN THIS WATER TEMPERATURE.
WE'RE NOT DOING WELL HERE EITHER.
THE HOLE IN THAT LAVA-VENT IS EXPANDING!
WE'VE GOT MAYBE SEVEN MINUTES BEFORE IT EXPLODES.
IF ANY OF THEIR STRAY BLASTS SHOULD HIT IT...
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO KEEP THEM AWAY.


AMAZING. THEIR GUNS ARE PROVING INEFFECTIVE, SO THEY'RE USING THEIR LAVA CONTROLLING POWERS TO CREATE MINI-MAGMA VENTS!
THEY'RE STILL NO MATCH FOR MY SUIT'S SPEED!
YOU THINK YOU CAN INVADE OUR HOME? DISRUPT OUR LIVES?
COOLANT KOOL
I'M TIRED OF BEING A TARGET FOR THESE WALKING BRIQUETTES.
FIVE MINUTES TILL VENT EXPLOSION!
THIS SHOULD COOL THINGS OFF A BIT.
THOOM


IT'S HOPELESS! THEY'VE GOT ME TOTALLY OUTNUMBERED!
AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, FAST.
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF OUR PEOPLE BELOW US. WE WILL DEFEND THEM TO THE DEATH.
C'MERE, FRIEND. YOU SEEM TO BE CALLING ALL THE SHOTS.
THREE MINUTES AND COUNTING WALTER!
SURFACE MEN ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR TREACHERY.
THAT MAY BE, BUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE TODAY WAS AN ACCIDENT!
FIGHTING'S NEVER SOLVED ANYTHING. NOW WE CAN TRY TALKING.
YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO LEAD THESE GUYS. LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO LISTEN TO REASON.


STINGRAY! IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!
IT'S GOING CRITICAL IN SIXTY SECONDS!
WE CAN'T STOP IT!
THIS IS THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR YOUR MEDDLING!
IT'S NOT SO SIMPLE. IF THAT VENT BLOWS, ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL SUFFER, TOO! I CAN SEAL THE RUPTURE, BUT I CAN'T GET THROUGH THE LAVA!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
WE WILL HELP YOU. WE CAN STOP THE LAVA FLOW AROUND THE LAVA-VENT.
YOU'VE GOT LESS THAN THIRTY SECONDS, WALTER!


GATHER 'ROUND ME BROTHERS. TOGETHER WE WILL SAVE OUR PEOPLE FROM THE SHORTSIGHTEDNESS OF THE SURFACE DWELLERS.
IT'S WORKING. YOU'RE STEMMING THE LAVA FLOW!
NOW A SIMPLE ELECTRO-BLAST WILL FUSE THE ROCK AND SEAL THE VENT, PERMANENTLY.
LIKE SO!
GOOD WORK WALTER!
IT'S OVER.
THE CREDIT GOES TO THE LAVA MEN.
YOU WASTE YOUR PLATITUDES ON US SURFACE DWELLER. WEAPONS LIKE YOUR DRILL AND ATOMIC BOMBS MAY GIVE YOU THE UPPER HAND FOR NOW. BUT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN WE LAVA MEN WILL EXPAND OUR DOMAIN AND TAKE OVER THE SURFACE.
TODAY'S TRAGEDY WAS AN ACCIDENT... NOTHING MORE!
HOWEVER, BE FOREWARNED. IF YOU EVER ATTACK THE SURFACE, YOU'LL FIND WE ARE MORE THAN READY TO DEFEND OURSELVES.
GO BACK TO YOUR HOMES. WE WILL LEAVE THIS AREA ALONE. AND CONSIDER WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED WORKING TOGETHER RATHER THAN AGAINST EACH OTHER.
THINK ABOUT IT.
END